THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 245334

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1965-11-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Finance And Resources Division Church House Great Smith Street London SW1P 3AZ
Phone	02078981571
Email	bishopricsfund@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE FUND SHALL BE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE SENIOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF BISHOPRICS WITHIN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION.(2) IN RELATION TO ANY AREA OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM WHERE THERE EXISTS A CHURCH THAT IS PART OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION OR IN COMMUNION WITH THE SEE OF CANTERBURY, THE FUND MAY:(A) PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE SETTING UP AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BISHOPRICS OF SUCH A CHURCH; AND(B) HOLD ENDOWMENT FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF SUCH BISHOPRICS;(3) IN RELATION TO ANY AREA OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FUND MAY:(A) PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE SETTING UP AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BISHOPRICS OF ANY CHURCH WHOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IS SUCH THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE FUND, HAVING SOUGHT THE ADVICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, JUDGES IT SUITABLE THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN; AND(B) HOLD ENDOWMENT FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF SUCH BISHOPRICS.(4) IN RELATION TO ANY CHURCH IN ANY OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES OR IN RELATION TO ANY PART OF SUCH A CHURCH, WHERE THERE IS NOT IN PLACE FOR THE TIME BEING A SYSTEM OF EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP, ANY REFERENCE IN THE ABOVE PROVISIONS TO A BISHOPRIC SHALL HAVE EFFECT AS IF IT WERE TO THE OFFICE AND WORK OF A SENIOR NATIONAL OR REGIONAL LEADER OF STATUS EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF A BISHOP.

Activities: The object of the Fund shall be the advancement of the Christian religion by the provision of support for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within or closely associated with the Anglican

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Communion in any area of the world outside the United Kingdom.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORLDWIDE
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£514,002	£376,545	£18,148,673	0
2023-12-31	£498,998	£436,410	-	-
2022-12-31	£473,088	£446,572	-	-
2021-12-31	£456,759	£644,282	-	-
2020-12-31	£450,181	£330,879	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bishop Anthony Poggo		2017-06-13
Canon Andrew James Roberts MBE		2021-11-09
Colin Graham BIRD		2017-11-22
Dr Liyanaarachchige Sanjeevani Ranjana Perera		2025-03-13
Edward Graham Mellish Chaplin		2021-11-09
Fiona Janice Proud		2021-06-09
Rev Davidson Samuel Solanki		2025-07-11
Rev Mark Oxbrow		2013-11-14
Rev Rana Khan		2022-06-09
Rt Revd Dr Gulnar Eleanor Francis-Dehqani		2021-11-09
STEPHEN SLACK CBE		2020-11-10
Sarah Louise Newnham		2025-06-19

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Linked charities

- INDIA CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND (245334-1)
- ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE BISHOPRIC OF SZECHWAN EAST (245334-10)
- THE NATAL FUND (245334-11)
- THE BLOEMFONTEIN FUND (245334-12)
- THE PRETORIA FUND (245334-13)
- THE GEORGE FUND (245334-14)
- THE JOHANNESBURG FUND (245334-15)
- THE DAMARALAND FUND (245334-16)
- OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS INDIA FUND DORNAKEL AND TIRUNNELVELI (245334-17)
- COLONIAL BISHOPRICS' (INDIA) FUND (245334-18)
- THE DORNAKAL BISHOPRIC FUND HELD IN CONNEXION WITH COLONIAL BISHOPRICS (INDIA) FUND (245334-19)
- BISHOPRIC OF LAHORE FUND (245334-2)
- BISHOP WILKINSON'S FUND FOR BISHOPRIC IN CONNEXION WITH THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MANCHURIA (245334-20)
- EGYPTIAN BISHOPRIC FUND (245334-21)
- WEST AFRICA NATIVE BISHOPRICS FUND (245334-22)
- BISHOPRIC OF RANGOON FUND (245334-3)
- NASIK BISHOPRIC ENDOWMENT FUND (245334-4)
- NASIK DIOCESE PENSIONS FUND (245334-5)
- ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE BISHOPRIC OF NORTH CHINA (245334-6)
- DIOCESE OF JORDAN,LEBANON AND SYRIA FUND (245334-7)
- ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE BISHOPRIC OF NORTH CHINA (245334-8)
- ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE BISHOPRIC OF SHANTUNG (245334-9)

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THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 245334

Accounts

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Registered Charity 245334

CONTENTS

	Page
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	2
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024	3
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND	10
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024	14
CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024	15
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024	16

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Overseas Bishoprics Fund is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Office
Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AZ

President
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

Members of the Council (trustees of the OBF) during 2024

Appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury
The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani
The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo

Representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church
The Revd Duncan Dormor (USPG)
Mr Robert Dawes (The Mothers' Union) – resigned September 2024
Rev Andy Roberts (CMS)

Trustees appointed by the Council
The Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow (Chair of the Council)
Mr Colin Bird
Mr Stephen Slack
Mr Edward Chaplin
Mrs Janice Proud
The Revd Canon Rana Khan

Officers
Mr Stephen Lyon (Secretary) (to November 2024)
Mrs Carolyn Gilmore Lyon (Secretary) (from June 2024)
Mr Ozan Gultekin (Clerk)

Auditor:

Crowe U.K. LLP
55 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7JW

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Investment Managers:

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
SW1E 5JL

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees of the Overseas Bishoprics Fund ("OBF") present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 16, and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

Structure, governance, management and remuneration
The governing document of the OBF is *The Rules for the Administration of the Fund*. This defines its object, the methods by which that may be achieved, the procedures for the appointment of its Council and officers, and the means by which its business may be transacted. These Rules were thoroughly reviewed, revised and approved by the OBF Council in June 2022 and subsequently sent to the Charity Commission.

The Rules provide that all affairs of the OBF are to be controlled by its Council, consisting of not more than twelve trustees. New trustees receive an induction pack of relevant documents outlining all aspects of the workings of the Fund.

The OBF has no other related parties apart from Barlow Interventions Limited, a company run by the OBF Secretary. Until November 2024, when this arrangement ceased, Barlow Interventions Limited charged the OBF periodically for secretarial work and related expenses. The current Secretary is self-employed and invoices the OBF periodically for work undertaken and related expenses. The level of remuneration for the OBF Secretary is set by the OBF every three years and the present daily rate (agreed in June 2022) of £350.

Appointment of Trustees
The composition of the OBF, in accordance with the updated 2019 rules of the Council, consists of not more than twelve members, who shall be the trustees of the Fund, as follows:

(a) two bishops appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a maximum term of 9 years;
(b) representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), the Church Mission Society (CMS) and the Mothers' Union (MU)) for a maximum term of 9 years; and
(c) up to six other members, appointed by the Council, for a maximum term of 9 years.

Statement of public benefit
The OBF believes that the Christian faith is of benefit to society and individuals as it brings a vision of transformation for peace and social harmony. This is derived from the belief of the Church that the ultimate purpose of God is to bring all things into unity and perfection in Jesus Christ.

The quality and security of the leadership within the Church is crucial in ensuring that this vision is realised. The OBF believes that the advancement of the Christian religion will be enhanced by the provision of "support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion".

The bishops whom the OBF supports, work in some of the neediest areas of the world. Their leadership benefits not only the Church but also the wider community and their nation and region. Their work often builds reconciliation, bringing community cohesion and stability through education, development and capacity building. They also provide vital links with the wider communities beyond those they primarily serve.

The OBF seeks to demonstrate this benefit through the way it addresses the needs of those in episcopal leadership within or closely associated with the Anglican Communion (AC), as detailed in this report. When planning its activities for the year the Council has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Grant-making policy

The OBF makes grants out of its General Fund, to supplement the local funds of overseas bishoprics. In 2019 the Council reviewed its grant giving priorities and procedures producing a new set of Guidance Notes and a common Application Form. Support for initiatives that build Episcopal leadership capacity is now a high priority.

Grants are usually made for an individual year but in some cases multi-year commitments are made.
Every applicant for funding is strongly encouraged to provide:

- as much clarity as possible as to what other sources of support a bishopric is seeking or has received and the level of local support from within a bishopric;
- evidence of the support of the Primate or Provincial Secretary of the Province in which the applicant's bishopric is situated; and
- assurances that the Communion's own guidelines for the financing of new dioceses have been followed.

Income from each of the restricted funds is paid to the overseas diocese or province to which it relates. The income from each fund is therefore generally equal to the investment income less administration expenses for the year in question.

Objectives and activities

The Rules provide that the core object of the OBF is as follows:

(1) The object of the Fund shall be to provide support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion.

And, provide further guidance that:

(2) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom where there exists a church that is part of the Anglican Communion or in communion within the See of Canterbury, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial or other assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of such a church; and
  (b) provide financial or other assistance towards the maintenance of the bishoprics of such a church, including the training of bishops; and
  (c) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(3) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of any church whose relationship with the Church of England is such that the Council of the Fund, having sought the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, judges it suitable that such assistance be given;
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(4) In relation to any church in any of the above categories or in relation to any part of such a church, where there is not in place for the time being a system of Episcopal leadership, any reference in the above provisions to a bishopric shall have effect as if it were to the office and work of a senior national or regional leader of status equivalent to that of a bishop.

The OBF is unique in the Anglican Communion in that, whilst it is keen to work alongside other organisations supporting the worldwide Church more generally, its specific remit is to provide assistance for the work of bishops throughout the Communion outside the UK. These bishops provide the leadership necessary to enable the delivery of the vision that the Christian faith can bring about transformation for peace, social harmony and human flourishing.

The OBF seeks to achieve this in two ways. Firstly, it administers episcopal endowment trust funds on behalf of several dioceses and provinces and transfers accumulated income to them. Secondly, it makes grants to bishoprics.

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The Council does not currently undertake fundraising activity of any nature, is not registered with a fundraising regulator, has no commercial participators, and has received no complaints relating to fundraising during the year.

Risk management

The OBF's risk management process facilitates the identification of threats to achieving its objectives and the mitigation of these threats. The risk register is drawn up by the Secretary and reviewed by the OBF on a bi-annual basis. The OBF has agreed that the risks below are those which are the main barrier to achieving its objectives and are addressed through the mitigating strategies. This was reviewed and the updated register agreed in November 2024.

In relation to Cyber-risks, as well as the annual recertification in Cyber Essential Plus, a new pan-NCI Cyber Steering Group was introduced in 2023 and conducted appropriate testing of core systems. Mandatory Cyber Security training has been provided for all staff.

Risk area	Key mitigating strategies
Risk that investments do not produce target returns, impacting on ability to provide stable and sustainable distributions. Macro-economic events (e.g. geopolitical instability, economic downturns, inflation) may impact investment performance and the sustainability of future distributions.	- Fund manager invests in diversified portfolio - Funds are held in deposit, investment fund and property fund shares - Performance of fund manager is regularly compared to other fund managers - Access to investment performance reports produced by Archbishops' Council Investment Committee - - Regular meetings between the fund manager and the Council to discuss investment policies and performance
Risk that funds may be misappropriated overseas	- Fund secretary holds latest records of beneficiaries' bank accounts and email addresses for administering the funds to ensure payments reach intended recipients. - Purposes of the Fund outlined to recipients each time an income payment is made. - All grants agreed by the Council as appropriate and applications have to be endorsed by the Primate of the province. - A summary is requested of the way in which previous grants have been spent. - Confirmation of receipt of funds are sent by the grantee to the secretary to the OBF together with a signed agreement that the grant or income will only be used for the specific purposes stated or in line with the objectives of the OBF.

Activities of the OBF Council in the year to 31 December 2024
In 2024, the OBF continued its support for the ministry of bishops in many countries with increased interest from some bishops following their engagement with OBF at the 2022 Lambeth Conference. The impact of climate related disaster and armed conflict affecting life across the Anglican Communion is a contributing factor in some grant applications.

Grants
In 2024 the OBF approved grants of £133,571 from its General Fund – £122,571 to be distributed in that year and the remainder committed for subsequent years. It also distributed £23,500 from its India Funds to the United Churches of the 'Indian Sub-continent'.

In June 2024, the OBF made the following new grants from its General Fund:63945

a) **Bishopric of Dunkwa-on-Offin, Ghana** – a grant of £7,125 towards the bishop's expenses (housing and living costs, travel, medical)
b) **Bolivia, South America** – a grant of £14,000 over 3 years (£7,000, £4,000, £3,000) towards the bishop's stipend and travel costs. (This is the first indigenous diocesan bishop in South America, and CMS no longer support bishop's stipends)
c) **Maiwut, ECSS** – a grant of £8,660 towards building the bishop's house and office.
d) **S. Nyanza, Kenya** – a further grant of £2,170 to complete building the bishop's office due to inflation increasing the costs.
e) **Muyinga, Burundi** – a grant of £7,875 towards the cost of replacing the bishop's car following an accident
f) **Biharamulo, Tanzania** – a grant of £7,940 to complete work on the bishop's house.
g) **Meridional, Brazil** – a grant of £8,175 towards the purchase of a vehicle for the bishop's use.
h) **International Anglican Safe Churches Commission** – a grant of £8,000 to enable certain bishops to attend this safeguarding training conference.

In November 2024, the OBF made the following new grants from its General Fund:

a) **Amazonia, Brazil** – a grant of £8,000 towards the cost of a vehicle for the bishop's use.
b) **Parana, Brazil** – A grant of £6,240 towards the cost of a vehicle for the bishop's use.
c) **Rutana, Burundi** – a grant of £7,865 for the cost of materials to renovate the bishop's residence, the labour costs being supplied by the Diocese.
d) **Kalemie, DR Congo** – a grant of £15,000 towards renovating a house for the new bishop, and travelling and living expenses.
e) **Morobo, ECSS** – a grant of £10,000 towards a Diocesan vehicle to replace one burned out by rebels.
f) **Toliara, Indian Ocean** – a grant of £1,944 towards the bishop's stipend and expenses due to the effects of two cyclones on the finances of the diocese.
g) **Eswatini, South Africa** – a grant of £12,600 to fund a livestock project to provide a reliable and sustainable livelihood for the bishop.
h) **Bom Pastor, IAMA (Angola)** – a grant of £7,977 to expand, improve and furnish the bishop's office.

The India Funds continued its support of the on-going work of the bishoprics in **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.** The importance of these grants can perhaps best be gauged by the fact that the OBF, from both these general funds and further restricted funds, is able to offer a significant proportion of the amount of the bishops' stipends in the Church of North India, and to make considerable contributions to the other Churches that are beneficiaries of these Funds.

Process for the appointment of a new OBF Secretary

Following Stephen Lyon's proposed resignation as Secretary to the OBF a process for appointing his successor followed through and Carolyn Gilmore was appointed in March 2024. The changeover of Secretaries took place over 2024 with Stephen finally standing down following the November 2024 Council Meeting.

China Funds

A review of the use and disbursement of the China funds, outlined in the 2022 report, was undertaken during 2024 and Resolutions were passed to amend the trusts of the Endowment Fund for the Bishopric of North China, the Bishopric of Shantung and the Bishopric of Szechuan East so that their income and property become part of the general purpose property of the OBF

Meanwhile, in line with permission already granted by the Charity Commission, income from the China funds is being used to support bishoprics where there is a ministry to a significant Chinese population. The first grants of this kind were agreed at the November 2022 meeting and made to the Bishoprics of Mandalay and Yangon, both in Myanmar. Similar grants were made to these dioceses in 2024.

Bishopscourt, Cape Town, South Africa

During 2012 all the necessary arrangements were put in place to transfer ownership of Bishopscourt (the home and office of the Archbishop of Cape Town since the 1840s) to a similar trust in South Africa. At its meeting in November 2012 the Council of the OBF approved a draft Deed of Trust establishing the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust, the principal objects of which are "to establish and maintain Anglican bishoprics within the province of Southern Africa, and in particular the Archbishopric of Cape Town"; and a draft Deed of Donation transferring to it the freehold of Bishopscourt and the associated funds. This transfer still continues to be delayed, due mainly to the complexity of the registration process of the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust in South Africa. The OBF Council has passed a resolution that when the transfer of the freehold takes place the capital currently held in all other South African funds held presently by the OBF will also be transferred to the new Trust: the Cape Town English Endowment Fund, the Cape Town South Africa Endowment Fund, the Bloemfontein Fund, the George Fund, the Natal Fund and the Pretoria Fund.

Governance Matters

Trustees continue to give time at each Council meeting to review an aspect of its governance seeking to review issues and, where necessary, improve policies. The over pattern seeks to review the following in a two-year cycle:

Year 1 (June): Governance Policies – Rules, Risk Register and Conflict of Interest Register.
Year 1 (November): Charity Purpose and objectives and consequent future major tasks (so allowing a high-level discussion every two years on how we feel God is calling us to steward the responsibilities we hold).
Year 2 (June): Management Policies - Financial Controls including Reserves and Investment policies (Including a presentation by CCLA/our fund managers); Diversity and Inclusion; and Risk Register
Year 2 (November): Strategic Partnerships - on some occasions this could include participation by a key partner such as ACF or St. Augustine's Foundation.

Future Plans

As the OBF specifically serves those leading the Anglican Communion – its bishops – its own future will be linked to that of the Communion. The effects of climate disasters and armed conflict challenge the mission and administration of all the Churches in the Anglican Communion as they seek to respond to the situations they face. We again saw this year that many of the applications were for basic repairs to bishops' housing and stipends, and also vehicles for use in their ministries. Anglican ecclesiastical politics also have the capacity to impact the work of OBF and are closely monitored.

We will continue to address how we might support the desire, in many places across the Communion, to build up the capacity of the bishops through training, support, mentoring and retreat.

We welcomed a new Secretary in 2024 and expect undertake work on issues that the new Charity Act will help us to deal with more effectively.

Financial review

The total net assets for which the OBF has responsibility at the end of 2024 were £18,148,673 (2023: £17,612,690). Of these assets:

- Unrestricted funds ("the General Fund"), which can be used for the setting up and maintenance of bishoprics generally, were £156,996 (2023: £150,159).
- Restricted funds, which must be used for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa), were £1,277,251 (2023: £1,131,177).
- the remaining £16,714,426 (2023: £16,331,354) were the permanent endowment funds of which £4,192,506 (2023: £4,107,141) generates income for general objects and £12,521,920 (2023: £12,224,213) generates income restricted to specific dioceses or regions.

The capital value of these funds, and the income generated by them, fluctuate according to market conditions.

Investment powers, policy and performance

Investments are held within Church of England Funds that are managed by CCLA Ltd. The Council reviews investment performance during the year, on the basis of reports received from CCLA Ltd. The funds are invested to maintain capital growth, whilst providing suitable levels of income to provide a reliable grant stream to the bishoprics. During the year the total value of the investment funds increased by £398,526, solely made up of gains on revaluation (2023: increased by £1,473,375, made up gains on revaluation). The amount of investment income received was £514,002 (2023: £498,998).

Reserves policy

Total funds at 31 December 2024 were £18,148,673 (2023: £17,612,690) of which £156,996 were unrestricted (2023: £150,159), £1,277,251 were restricted (2023: £1,131,177) and £16,714,426 were endowment funds (2023: £16,331,354). The Council believe that the level of free reserves from the unrestricted General Funds should be not less than 12 months operational expenditure, in order to provide sufficient working capital and to deal with unforeseen requests for emergency funding. As at 31 December 2024, as there are currently no designated funds, free reserves totalled £156,996 (2023: £150,159) which is above the targeted level. The trustees are content with the level of reserves as at 31 December 2024. The reserves policy has been reviewed and updated in 2025.

Going concern

The Council has assessed expected cash flows for 2025 and the 12 months beyond the date of signing. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have indicated that there will be a positive change to the expected investment income for 2025, despite challenging market conditions and continued geopolitical uncertainty. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The Council is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the OBF and of its incoming resources and application of those resources for the period in question. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed (subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements); and
- prepare the financial statements on the "going concern" basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements are correctly prepared. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the OBF, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Council on 17 June 2025 and signed on its behalf:

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow

Chair of the Council

Date: 17 June 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept by the charity; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 9, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations were regulations concerning the international transfer of money.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Trustees about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor

London

Date 22 July 2025

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Investments	3	146,698	367,304	-	514,002	498,998
Total income		146,698	367,304	-	514,002	498,998
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Support of bishops	4	(139,861)	(236,684)	-	(376,545)	(436,410)
Total expenditure		(139,861)	(236,684)	-	(376,545)	(436,410)
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		**6,837**	**130,620**	**-**	**137,457**	**62,588**
Gain on investments	7	-	15,454	383,072	398,526	1,473,375
Net expenditure		**6,837**	**146,074**	**383,072**	**535,983**	**1,535,963**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		**6,837**	**146,074**	**383,072**	**535,983**	**1,535,963**
Total funds at 1 January:		**150,159**	**1,131,177**	**16,331,354**	**17,612,690**	**16,076,727**
Total funds at 31 December		**156,996**	**1,277,251**	**16,714,426**	**18,148,673**	**17,612,690**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Investments	7	7,893	1,039,324	16,714,426	17,761,643	**16,998,098**
		7,893	**1,039,324**	**16,714,426**	**17,761,643**	**16,998,098**
Current assets						
Cash & cash equivalents		211,120	461,748	-	672,868	**846,326**
Debtors	8	34,715	93,272	-	127,987	**127,954**
		245,835	**555,020**	-	**800,855**	**974,280**
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(93,732)	(317,093)	-	(410,825)	**(337,688)**
Net current assets		**152,103**	**237,927**	-	**390,030**	**636,592**
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9	(3,000)	-	-	(3,000)	**(22,000)**
Total net assets		**156,996**	**1,277,251**	**16,714,426**	**18,148,673**	**17,612,690**
The funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds - General	11	156,996	-	-	156,996	**150,159**
Restricted funds	11	-	1,277,251	-	1,277,251	**1,131,177**
Endowment funds	11	-	-	16,714,426	16,714,426	**16,331,354**
Total funds		156,996	1,277,251	16,714,426	18,148,673	**17,612,690**

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow
Chairman of Council
Date: 17 June 2025

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)		137,457	62,588
Investment income	3	(514,002)	(498,998)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	9	54,137	65,491
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	8	(33)	(13,350)
Net cash flow (used in) operating activities		**(322,441)**	**(384,269)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	3	514,002	498,998
Purchase of fixed asset investments	7	(365,019)	-
Net cash flow provided by investing activities		**148,983**	**498,998**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(173,458)	114,729
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		846,326	731,597
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**672,868**	**846,326**

Analysis of cash & cash equivalents & changes in net debt:

	At 1 Jan 2024	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Short term deposits	**845,182**	**(358,282)**	-	**486,900**
Cash at bank and in hand	**1,144**	**184,824**	-	**185,968**
TOTAL	**846,326**	**(173,458)**	-	**672,868**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal Status

The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ("OBF") is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Basis of Preparation

The charity's financial information has been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102");
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

The OBF meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity ("PBE") as set out in FRS 100, and therefore applies the PBE prefixed paragraphs in FRS 102.

The financial information has been prepared on the historical cost basis (except for the revaluation of investments) and on the accruals basis.

These financial statements comprise all the OBF's unrestricted, designated, restricted and endowment funds drawn up to 31 December each year.

A summary of the accounting policies, which have been applied consistently across the group, is set out below.

Going Concern

The Council has assessed expected cash flows for 2025 and the 12 months beyond the date of signing. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have indicated that there will be a positive change to the expected investment income for 2025, despite challenging market conditions and continued geopolitical uncertainty. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Funds Structure

Unrestricted funds

General Funds are funds which can be used for its general charitable objects to coordinate, promote, aid and further the work and mission of the Overseas Bishoprics Fund.

Restricted funds

Restricted Funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donor, these conditions being legally binding upon the Fund.

Endowment funds

Endowment funds are capital funds where the Council has no power to spend the capital but where the income generated from the invested funds is available for expenditure. Endowment funds fall into two categories: endowments for specific dioceses or provinces; and endowments for the general objects of the charity. Income from endowments for specific dioceses or provinces is treated as restricted income and income from endowment for the general objects of the charity is treated as unrestricted income.

Income and Expenditure
Dividends and other interest are recognised on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as a liability when a firm commitment to pay the grant is made.

Investment and Gains and Losses on Investment Assets
Investments are stated in the financial statements at market value. Gains or losses on investments are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. TAXATION

The Fund is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to their charitable purposes.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	114,498	367,135	-	**481,633**	464,631
Interest on cash and deposit funds	32,200	169	-	**32,369**	34,367
	146,698	**367,304**	-	**514,002**	**498,998**

4. SUPPORT OF BISHOPS

Support of bishops comprises grants awarded from unrestricted funds at the discretion of the Council and payments of net income from restricted funds. Support costs comprising of administration expenses of the Fund plus Governance Costs have been allocated to this activity cost category. Grants were awarded from unrestricted funds at the discretion of the Council, to 16 recipients totalling £128,961.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants committed	128,961	247,556	-	**376,517**	396,532
Support costs	10,900	29,778	-	**40,678**	39,878
Grants written back	-	(40,650)	-	**(40,650)**	-
	139,861	236,684	-	**376,545**	**436,410**

2023 expenditure was made up of £84,147 of unrestricted expenditure and £312,385 of restricted expenditure.

Governance costs, included within support costs, are made up of:-	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors remuneration	9,801	9,023
	9,801	**9,023**

5. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Investments	146,761	352,237	-	498,998
Total income	146,761	352,237	-	498,998
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Support of bishops	(91,367)	(345,043)	-	(436,410)
Total expenditure	(91,367)	(345,043)	-	(436,410)
Net (expenditure)/income before gain on investments	**55,394**	**7,194**	**-**	**62,588**
Gain on investments	-	57,135	1,416,240	1,473,375
Net income	**55,394**	**64,329**	**1,416,240**	**1,535,963**
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**55,394**	**64,329**	**1,416,240**	**1,535,963**
Total funds at 1 January:	94,765	1,066,848	14,915,114	**16,076,727**
Total funds at 31 December	**150,159**	**1,131,177**	**16,331,354**	**17,612,960**

6. PROPERTY

The Fund is the trustee of an historical house, Bishopscourt, in Cape Town, occupied by the Archbishop of Cape Town and a maintenance fund consisting of a portfolio of investments held in respect of the Archbishopric of Cape Town. The maintenance of the house is financed locally and has been for over a century. The Council last received a valuation as at 31st May 2013 of £4.3 million for the property and £942,000 for the investments. As the Fund has no control over or beneficial interest in the assets, they have been included at nil value in the accounts. The Council had originally hoped to transfer the title of these assets to a newly formed charitable trust in South Africa for the benefit of the Archbishopric of Cape Town, during the latter part of 2013. There has however been no change in 2024 and it is hoped that matters will be concluded as soon as possible.

7. INVESTMENTS

Fund	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment for general objects	Endowment for specific diocese	Total investments 2024	Total investments 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments						
Balance at 1 January	7,893	658,851	4,107,141	12,224,213	**16,998,098**	15,524,724
Additions	-	365,019	-	-	**365,019**	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	-	15,454	85,365	297,707	**398,526**	1,473,374
Balance as at 31 December	7,893	1,039,324	4,192,506	12,521,920	**17,761,643**	**16,998,098**

Fund	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment for general objects	Endowment for specific diocese	Total investments 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments					
Balance at 1 January	7,893	601,716	3,750,471	11,164,644	**15,524,724**
Net gain on revaluation	-	57,135	356,670	1,059,569	**1,473,374**
Balance as at 31 December	7,893	658,851	4,107,141	12,224,213	**16,998,098**

See note 6 in respect of investments held in the Bishopscourt maintenance fund.

All investments are held within the CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

8. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Accrued income	127,987	127,954
	127,987	127,954

9. CREDITORS

Amount falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Grants payable	395,998	324,604
Accrued expenditure	14,827	13,084
	410,825	337,688

Amount falling due after one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Grants payable	3,000	22,000
	3,000	22,000

Creditor balances consist of both dividend income due to the provinces, and general fund grants awarded by the Trustees.

10. EMPLOYEES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

There were no employees during the year. No remuneration has been paid to Council Members during the year. Reimbursement of travel & subsistence expenses paid to Council Members during the year was £268 (2023: £234).

In June 2024, Stephen Lyon retired as OBF secretary and was replaced by Carolyn Gilmore. The period from June 2024 to November 2024 served as a handover period for the role and hence, secretarial fees for both Stephen Lyon and Carolyn Gilmore were payable.

Secretarial fees of £7,140, charged by Barlow Interventions Limited, were expensed during 2024 (2023: £8,295) for services provided by Stephen Lyon, OBF Secretary. Stephen Lyon is the sole owner of Barlow Interventions Limited. As at 31 December 2024, £1,626 was owed to Barlow Interventions Limited (2023: £3,794).

Secretarial fees of £7,025 were expensed during 2024 (2023: £nil) for services provided by Carolyn Gilmore, OBF Secretary. As at 31 December 2024, £513 was owed to Carolyn Gilmore (2023: £nil).

There was no other remuneration to key management personnel during either the current or previous years.

11. ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
General Fund	150,159	146,698	(139,861)	-	-	**156,996**
Restricted Funds:						
China	*789,681*	*77,228*	*(7,288)*	-	*9,792*	***869,413***
Other	*341,496*	*290,076*	*(229,396)*	-	*5,662*	***407,838***
Restricted Funds - total	**1,131,177**	**367,304**	**(236,684)**	-	**15,454**	**1,277,251**
Endowment Funds	16,331,354	-	-	-	383,072	**16,714,426**
Total funds of the charity	17,612,690	514,002	(376,545)	-	398,526	**18,148,673**

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
General Fund	94,765	146,761	(91,367)	-	-	150,159
Restricted Funds:						
China	*708,258*	*69,521*	*(25,924)*	-	*37,826*	*789,681*
Other	*358,590*	*282,716*	*(319,119)*	-	*19,309*	*341,496*
Restricted Funds - total	**1,066,848**	**352,237**	**(345,043)**	-	**57,135**	**1,131,177**
Endowment Funds	14,915,114	-	-	-	1,416,240	16,331,354
Total funds of the charity	16,076,727	498,998	(436,410)	-	1,473,375	17,612,690

Endowment Funds

Endowment investments are split based on whether there is a restriction in place on the income which these assets generate.

The OBF has a total of 37 (2023: 37) permanent endowment funds, the largest now being the amalgamated funds: OBF West Indies Fund at £2,531,000 (2023: £2,474,000), OBF China General Fund at £2,470,000 (2023: £2,104,000) and OBF India General Fund at £1,483,000 (2023: £1,445,000), valued at 31 December 2024.

11. ANALYSIS OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted Funds
These funds are for use for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa).

There are 34 (2023: 34) restricted income funds, the largest being the OBF China General Fund, valued at £850,000 at 31 December 2024 (£790,000 at 31 December 2023).

Unrestricted Funds: General Fund
This fund is for general use in meeting the OBF's charitable objectives and are not designated for specific purposes.

12. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	**2023**
Group	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	7,893	658,851	16,331,354	**16,998,098**
Current assets	196,482	777,798	-	**974,280**
Current liabilities	(32,216)	(305,472)	-	**(337,688)**
Non-current liabilities	(22,000)	-	-	**(22,000)**
Total net assets	150,159	1,131,177	16,331,354	**17,612,690**

Net assets between funds for the current year can be seen on the Balance Sheet statement on page 14.

13. RELATED PARTIES

During 2024, secretarial fees of £7,140 were charged by Barlow Interventions (2023: £8,295) and secretarial fees of £7,025 were charged by Carolyn Gilmore (2023: nil). See Note 10 for further details.

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 245334

Accounts

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Registered Charity 245334

CONTENTS

	Page
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	2
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023	3
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND	10
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	14
CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023	15
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023	16

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Overseas Bishoprics Fund is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Office
Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AZ

President
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

Members of the Council (trustees of the OBF) during 2023

Appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury
The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani
The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo

Representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church
Mr Sam Richardson (SPCK) (resigned November 2023)
The Revd Duncan Dormor (USPG)
Mr Robert Dawes (The Mothers' Union)
Rev Andy Roberts (CMS)

Trustees appointed by the Council
The Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow (Chair of the Council)
Mr Colin Bird
Mr Stephen Slack
Mr Edward Chaplin
Mrs Janice Proud
The Revd Rana Khan

Officers
Mr Stephen Lyon (Secretary)
Mr Christopher Smith (Clerk) (until February 2023)
Mr Ozan Gultekin (Clerk) (from November 2023)

Auditor:	**Bankers:**	**Investment Managers:**
Crowe U.K LLP 55 Ludgate Hill London EC4M 7JW	Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN	CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London SW1E 5JL

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees of the Overseas Bishoprics Fund ("OBF") present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 16, and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

Structure, governance, management and remuneration
The governing document of the OBF is *The Rules for the Administration of the Fund*. This defines its object, the methods by which that may be achieved, the procedures for the appointment of its Council and officers, and the means by which its business may be transacted. These Rules were thoroughly reviewed, revised and approved by the OBF Council in June 2022 and subsequently sent to the Charity Commission.

The Rules provide that all affairs of the OBF are to be controlled by its Council, consisting of not more than twelve trustees. New trustees receive an induction pack of relevant documents outlining all aspects of the workings of the Fund.

The OBF has no other related parties apart from Barlow Interventions Limited, a company run by the OBF Secretary. Barlow Interventions Limited charges the OBF periodically for secretarial work and related expenses. The level of remuneration for the OBF Secretary is set by the OBF every three years and the present daily rate (agreed in June 2022) of £350.

Appointment of Trustees
The composition of the OBF, in accordance with the updated 2022 rules of the Council, consists of not more than twelve members, who shall be the trustees of the Fund, as follows:

(a) two bishops appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a maximum term of 9 years;
(b) representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), the Church Mission Society (CMS) and the Mothers' Union (MU)) for a maximum term of 9 years; and
(c) up to six other members, appointed by the Council, for a maximum term of 9 years.

Statement of public benefit
The OBF believes that the Christian faith is of benefit to society and individuals as it brings a vision of transformation for peace and social harmony. This is derived from the belief of the Church that the ultimate purpose of God is to bring all things into unity and perfection in Jesus Christ.

The quality and security of the leadership within the Church is crucial in ensuring that this vision is realised. The OBF believes that the advancement of the Christian religion will be enhanced by the provision of "support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion".

The bishops whom the OBF supports, work in some of the neediest areas of the world. Their leadership benefits not only the Church but also the wider community and their nation and region. Their work often builds reconciliation, bringing community cohesion and stability through education, development and capacity building. They also provide vital links with the wider communities beyond those they primarily serve.

The OBF seeks to demonstrate this benefit through the way it addresses the needs of those in episcopal leadership within or closely associated with the Anglican Communion (AC), as detailed in this report. When planning its activities for the year the Council has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Grant-making policy
The OBF makes grants out of its General Fund, to supplement the local funds of overseas bishoprics. In 2019 the Council reviewed its grant giving priorities and procedures producing a new set of Guidance Notes and a common Application Form. Support for initiatives that build Episcopal leadership capacity is now a high priority.

Grants are usually made for an individual year but in some cases multi-year commitments are made.
Every applicant for funding is strongly encouraged to provide:

- as much clarity as possible as to what other sources of support a bishopric is seeking or has received and the level of local support from within a bishopric;
- evidence of the support of the Primate or Provincial Secretary of the Province in which the applicant's bishopric is situated; and
- assurances that the Communion's own guidelines for the financing of new dioceses have been followed.

Income from each of the restricted funds is paid to the overseas diocese or province to which it relates. The income from each fund is therefore generally equal to the investment income less administration expenses for the year in question.

Objectives and activities
The Rules provide that the core object of the OBF is as follows:

(1) The object of the Fund shall be to provide support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion.

And, provide further guidance that:

(2) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom where there exists a church that is part of the Anglican Communion or in communion within the See of Canterbury, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial or other assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of such a church; and
  (b) provide financial or other assistance towards the maintenance of the bishoprics of such a church, including the training of bishops; and
  (c) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(3) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of any church whose relationship with the Church of England is such that the Council of the Fund, having sought the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, judges it suitable that such assistance be given;
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(4) In relation to any church in any of the above categories or in relation to any part of such a church, where there is not in place for the time being a system of Episcopal leadership, any reference in the above provisions to a bishopric shall have effect as if it were to the office and work of a senior national or regional leader of status equivalent to that of a bishop.

The OBF is unique in the Anglican Communion in that, whilst it is keen to work alongside other organisations supporting the worldwide Church more generally, its specific remit is to provide assistance for the work of bishops throughout the Communion outside the UK. These bishops provide the leadership necessary to enable the delivery of the vision that the Christian faith can bring about transformation for peace and social harmony.

The OBF seeks to achieve this in two ways. Firstly, it administers episcopal endowment trust funds on behalf of several dioceses and provinces and transfers accumulated income to them. Secondly, it makes grants to bishoprics.

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The Council does not currently undertake fundraising activity of any nature, is not registered with a fundraising regulator, has no commercial participators, and has received no complaints relating to fundraising during the year.

Risk management

The OBF's risk management process facilitates the identification of threats to achieving its objectives and the mitigation of these threats. The risk register is drawn up by the Secretary and reviewed by the OBF on a bi-annual basis. The OBF has agreed that the risks below are those which are the main barrier to achieving its objectives and are addressed through the mitigating strategies. This was reviewed and the updated register agreed in November 2023.

Cyber risk has also been an area of attention in 2023. As well as the annual recertification in Cyber Essential Plus, a new pan-NCI Cyber Sterring Group has been set up and conducted appropriate testing of core systems. New mandatory Cyber Security training has been introduced for all staff.

Risk area	Key mitigating strategies
Risk that investments do not produce target returns, impacting on ability to provide stable and sustainable distributions. Macro-economic events (e.g. geopolitical instability, economic downturns, inflation) may impact investment performance and the sustainability of future distributions.	- Fund manager invests in diversified portfolio - Funds are held in deposit, investment fund and property fund shares - Performance of fund manager is regularly compared to other fund managers - Access to investment performance reports produced by Archbishops' Council Investment Committee - - Regular meetings between the fund manager and the Council to discuss investment policies and performance
Risk that funds may be misappropriated overseas	- Fund secretary holds latest records of beneficiaries' bank accounts and email addresses for administering the funds to ensure payments reach intended recipients. - Purposes of the Fund outlined to recipients each time an income payment is made. - All grants agreed by the Council as appropriate and applications have to be endorsed by the Primate of the province. - A summary is requested of the way in which previous grants have been spent. - Confirmation of receipt of funds are sent by the grantee to the secretary to the OBF together with a signed agreement that the grant or income will only be used for the specific purposes stated or in line with the objectives of the OBF.

Activities of the OBF Council in the year to 31 December 2023

In 2023 the OBF continued its support for the ministry of bishops in many countries with increased interest from some bishops following their engagement with OBF at the Lambeth Conference the previous year. The impact of the Covid pandemic continued to influence life across the Anglican Communion and is a contributing factor in some grant applications. During the year the global turbulence of the war in Ukraine and domestic political upheavals have affected the levels of income available to us.

Grants

In 2023 the OBF approved grants of £84,148 from its General Fund – £73,148 to be distributed in that year and the remainder committed for subsequent years. It also distributed £42,000 from its India Funds to the United Churches of the 'Indian Sub-continent'.

a) **Bishopric of Bo, Sierra Leone** – a grant of 75,000,000 Leone (Approx. £2,626) towards the repairs to the bishop's car following an accident earlier this year.
b) **Bishopric of Kurunagala, Sri Lanka** – a grant of £6,000 for financial assistance towards the purchase of a vehicle for the bishop.
c) **Bishopric of Liwolo, ECSS** – a grant towards the bishop's travel and salary. (The bishop travels to refugee settlements in Uganda and IDP camps in South Sudan). A grant of £18,000 was agreed to be made in three annual payments of £7,000 (Year 1); £6,000 (Year 2) and £5,000 (Year 3).
d) **Province of Burundi** – a grant towards the "Archbishop's rented house" in Bujumbura and his travel costs. A grant of £14,000 was agreed to be made in three annual payments of £6,000 (Year 1); £4,500 (Year 2) and £3,500 (Year 3).
e) **Province of Tanzania** – a grant of £8,000 towards the funding for a Tanzanian bishops' workshop on human trafficking and migration.
f) **Bishopric of Southern Nyanza, Kenya** – a grant of £6,700 to complete the bishop's office which is still at the foundation level. The request is for the necessary building materials and paying for the construction labour.

In November 2023 the OBF made the following new grants from its General Fund:

a) **Bishopric of Guinea, West Africa** – a grant of GNF 29,600,000 (approx. £2,850) for repairs to the Episcopal residence especially to the roof and the doors.
b) **Bishopric of Recife, Brazil** – a grant of £8,000 towards the purchase of a new vehicle for the bishop's use in this vast Brazilian diocese.
c) **Bishopric of Sau Paulo, Brazil** – a grant of £7,500 towards the repairs to the roof of the Episcopal house.
d) **Bishopric of Tema, Ghana –** a grant of GNF 54,735 (approx. £3,830) towards the finishing of the Bishop's Lodge in this newly created diocese.
e) **Bishopric of Wiawso, Ghana –** a grant of GHC 84,000 (approx. £4,800) to purchase office equipment for a newly consecrated bishop.

The India Funds continued its support of the on-going work of the bishoprics in **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.** The importance of these grants can perhaps best be gauged by the fact that the OBF, from both these general funds and further restricted funds, is able to offer a significant proportion of the amount of the bishops' stipends in the Church of North India, and to make considerable contributions to the other Churches that are beneficiaries of these Funds.

Process for the appointment of a new OBF Secretary

At the November 2023 meeting Stephen Lyon's proposed resignation as Secretary to the OBF was announced and a process for appointing his successor agreed. The appointment and the changeover of Secretaries will take place over 2024 with Stephen finally standing down following the November 2024 Council Meeting.

China Funds

A review of the use and disbursement of the China funds, outlined in the 2022 report, has not taken place but will be considered in 2024 in the light of the changes to charity law. However, in line with permission already granted by the Charity Commission, income from the China funds is being used to support bishoprics where there is a ministry to a significant Chinese population. The first grants of this kind were agreed at the November 2022 meeting and made to the Bishoprics of Mandalay and Yangon, both in Myanmar. Similar grants were made to these dioceses in 2023.

Bishopscourt, Cape Town, South Africa

During 2012 all the necessary arrangements were put in place to transfer ownership of Bishopscourt (the home and office of the Archbishop of Cape Town since the 1840s) to a similar trust in South Africa. At its meeting in November 2012 the Council of the OBF approved:

a draft Deed of Trust establishing the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust, the principal objects of which are "to establish and maintain Anglican bishoprics within the province of Southern Africa, and in particular the Archbishopric of Cape Town"; and

a draft Deed of Donation transferring to it the freehold of Bishopscourt and the associated funds.

This transfer still continues to be delayed, due mainly to the complexity of the registration process of the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust in South Africa. The OBF Council has passed a resolution that when the transfer of the freehold takes place the capital currently held in all other South African funds held presently by the OBF will also be transferred to the new Trust: the Cape Town English Endowment Fund, the Cape Town South Africa Endowment Fund, the Bloemfontein Fund, the George Fund, the Natal Fund and the Pretoria Fund.

Governance Matters

Trustees decided this year to give time at each Council meeting to review an aspect of its governance seeking to review issues and, where necessary, improve policies. The over pattern seeks to review the following in a two-year cycle:

Year 1 (June): Governance Policies – Rules, Risk Register and Conflict of Interest Register.

Year 1 (November): Charity Purpose and objectives and consequent future major tasks (so allowing a high-level discussion every two years on how we feel God is calling us to steward the responsibilities we hold).

Year 2 (June): Management Policies - Financial Controls including Reserves and Investment policies (Including a presentation by CCLA/our fund managers); Diversity and Inclusion; and Risk Register

Year 2 (November): Strategic Partnerships - on some occasions this could include participation by a key partner such as ACF or St. Augustine's Foundation.

Future Plans

As the OBF specifically serves those leading the Anglican Communion – its bishops – its own future will be linked to that of the Communion. The effect of the Coronavirus still continues to challenge the mission and administration of all the Churches in the Anglican Communion as they seek to respond to the situations they face. The effects of the virus will continue to be factors in applications that will come to the OBF. We again saw this year that many of the applications were for basic repairs to bishops' housing and stipends.

We will continue to address how we might support the desire, in many places across the Communion, to build up the capacity of the bishops through training, support, mentoring and retreat.

We will welcome a new Secretary in 2024 and undertake work on issues that the new Charity Act will help us to deal with more effectively.

Financial review

The total net assets for which the OBF has responsibility at the end of 2023 were £17,612,690 (2022: £16,076,727). Of these assets:

- Unrestricted funds ("the General Fund"), which can be used for the setting up and maintenance of bishoprics generally, were £150,159 (2022: £94,765).
- Restricted funds, which must be used for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa), were £1,131,177 (2022: £1,066,848).
- the remaining £16,331,354 (2022: £14,915,114) were the permanent endowment funds of which £4,115,031 (2022: £3,750,460) generates income for general objects and £12,216,323 (2022: £11,164,644) generates income restricted to specific dioceses or regions.

The capital value of these funds, and the income generated by them, fluctuate according to market conditions.

Investment powers, policy and performance

Investments are held within Church of England Funds that are managed by CCLA Ltd. The Council reviews investment performance during the year, on the basis of reports received from CCLA Ltd. The funds are invested to maintain capital growth, whilst providing suitable levels of income to provide a reliable grant stream to the bishoprics. During the year the total value of the investment funds increased by £1,473,375, solely made up of gains on revaluation (2022: decreased by £2,060,950, made up losses on revaluation). The amount of investment income received was £498,998 (2022: £473,088).

Reserves policy

Total funds at 31 December 2023 were £17,612,690 (2022: £16,076,727) of which £150,159 were unrestricted (2022: £94,765), £1,131,177 were restricted (2022: £1,066,848) and £16,331,354 were endowment funds (2022: £14,915,114). The Council believe that the level of free reserves from the unrestricted General Funds should be not less than £40,000, in order to provide sufficient working capital and to deal with unforeseen requests for emergency funding. As at 31 December 2023, as there are currently no designated funds, free reserves totalled £150,159 (2022: £94,765) which is above the targeted level. The trustees are content with the level of reserves as at 31 December 2023.

Going concern

The Council has assessed expected cash flows for 2024 and the 12 months beyond the date of signing. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have not communicated a change to the expected investment income for 2025, despite challenging market conditions and continued geopolitical uncertainty. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

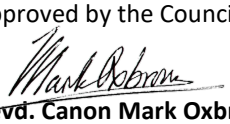
Responsibilities of the trustees

The Council is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the OBF and of its incoming resources and application of those resources for the period in question. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed (subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements); and
- prepare the financial statements on the "going concern" basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements are correctly prepared. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the OBF, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Council on 25 June 2024 and signed on its behalf:



Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow

Chair of the Council

25 June 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept by the charity; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 9, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations were regulations concerning the international transfer of money.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Trustees about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor

London

Date 8 August 2024

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Investments	3	146,761	352,237	-	498,998	473,088
Total income		146,761	352,237	-	498,998	473,088
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Support of bishops	4	(91,367)	(345,043)	-	(436,410)	(446,572)
Total expenditure		(91,367)	(345,043)	-	(436,410)	(446,572)
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		**55,394**	**7,194**	**-**	**62,588**	26,516
Gain / (loss) on investments	7	-	57,135	1,416,240	1,473,375	(2,060,950)
Net expenditure		**55,394**	**64,329**	**1,416,240**	**1,535,963**	**(2,034,434)**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		**55,394**	**64,329**	**1,416,240**	**1,535,963**	**(2,034,434)**
Total funds at 1 January:		**94,765**	**1,066,848**	**14,915,114**	**16,076,727**	**18,111,161**
Total funds at 31 December		**150,159**	**1,131,177**	**16,331,354**	**17,612,690**	**16,076,727**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Investments	7	7,893	658,851	16,331,354	16,998,098	15,524,723
		7,893	**658,851**	**16,331,354**	**16,998,098**	**15,524,723**
Current assets						
Cash & cash equivalents		157,631	688,695	-	846,326	731,597
Debtors	8	38,851	89,103	-	127,954	114,604
		196,482	**777,798**	-	**974,280**	**846,201**
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(32,216)	(305,472)	-	(337,688)	(283,197)
Net current assets		**164,266**	**472,326**	-	**636,592**	**563,004**
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9	(22,000)	-	-	(22,000)	(11,000)
Total net assets		**150,159**	**1,131,177**	**16,331,354**	**17,612,690**	**16,076,727**
The funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds - General	11	150,159	-	-	150,159	**94,765**
Restricted funds	11	-	1,131,177	-	1,131,177	**1,066,848**
Endowment funds	11	-	-	16,331,354	16,331,354	**14,915,114**
Total funds		**150,159**	**1,131,177**	**16,331,354**	**17,612,690**	**16,076,727**

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow
Chairman of Council

25 June 2024

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)		62,588	26,516
Investment income	3	(498,998)	(473,088)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	9	65,491	107,404
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	8	(13,350)	294
Net cash flow (used in) operating activities		**(384,269)**	**(338,874)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	3	498,998	473,088
Net cash flow provided by investing activities		**498,998**	**473,088**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		114,729	134,214
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		731,597	597,383
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**846,326**	**731,597**

Analysis of cash & cash equivalents & changes in net debt:

	At 1 Jan 2023 £	Cash flows £	Other changes £	At 31 Dec 2023 £
Short term deposits	735,574	109,608	-	**845,182**
Cash at bank and in hand	(3,977)	5,121	-	**1,144**
TOTAL	**731,597**	114,729	-	**846,326**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal Status
The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ("OBF") is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Basis of Preparation
The charity's financial information has been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102");
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

The OBF meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity ("PBE") as set out in FRS 100, and therefore applies the PBE prefixed paragraphs in FRS 102.

The financial information has been prepared on the historical cost basis (except for the revaluation of investments) and on the accruals basis.

These financial statements comprise all the OBF's unrestricted, designated, restricted and endowment funds drawn up to 31 December each year.

A summary of the accounting policies, which have been applied consistently across the group, is set out below.

Going Concern
The Council has assessed expected cash flows for 2024 and 2025. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have not communicated a change to the expected investment income for 2024. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out on above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Funds Structure
Unrestricted funds
General Funds are funds which can be used for its general charitable objects to coordinate, promote, aid and further the work and mission of the Overseas Bishoprics Fund.

Restricted funds
Restricted Funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donor, these conditions being legally binding upon the Fund.

Endowment funds
Endowment funds are capital funds where the Council has no power to spend the capital but where the income generated from the invested funds is available for expenditure. Endowment funds fall into two categories: endowments for specific dioceses or provinces; and endowments for the general objects of the charity. Income from endowments for specific dioceses or provinces is treated as restricted income and income from endowment for the general objects of the charity is treated as unrestricted income.

Income and Expenditure
Dividends and other interest are recognised on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as a liability when a firm commitment to pay the grant is made.

Investment and Gains and Losses on Investment Assets
Investments are stated in the financial statements at market value. Gains or losses on investments are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. TAXATION

The Fund is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to their charitable purposes.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment funds**	**2023**	2022
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£
Dividends	112,477	352,154	-	**464,631**	464,631
Interest on cash and deposit funds	34,284	83	-	**34,367**	8,457
	146,761	**352,237**	-	**498,998**	**473,088**

4. SUPPORT OF BISHOPS

Support of bishops comprises grants awarded from unrestricted funds at the discretion of the Council and payments of net income from restricted funds. Support costs comprising of administration expenses of the Fund plus Governance Costs have been allocated to this activity cost category.

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment funds**	**2023**	2022
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£
Grants committed	84,147	312,385	-	**396,532**	418,165
Grants written back	-	-	-	**-**	(17,510)
Support costs	7,220	32,658	-	**39,878**	45,917
	91,367	345,043	**-**	**436,410**	**446,572**

2022 expenditure was made up of £126,567 of unrestricted expenditure and £320,005 of restricted expenditure.

Governance costs, included within support costs, are made up of:-	**2023**	**2022**
	£	**£**
Auditors remuneration	9,023	7,650
Legal Fees	-	9,336
	9,023	**16,986**

5. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Investments	121,148	351,940	-	473,088
Total income	121,148	351,940	-	473,088
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Support of bishops	(126,567)	(320,005)	-	(446,572)
Total expenditure	(126,567)	(320,005)	-	(446,572)
Net (expenditure)/income before gain on investments	(5,419)	31,935	-	26,516
Gain on investments	(820)	(80,853)	(1,979,277)	(2,060,950)
Net income	**(6,239)**	**(48,918)**	**(1,979,277)**	**(2,034,434)**
Transfers between funds	(6,000)	6,000	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(12,239)**	**(42,918)**	**(1,979,277)**	**(2,034,434)**
Total funds at 1 January:	**107,004**	**1,109,766**	**16,894,391**	**18,111,161**
Total funds at 31 December	**94,765**	**1,066,848**	**14,915,114**	**16,076,727**

6. PROPERTY

The Fund is the trustee of an historical house, Bishopscourt, in Cape Town, occupied by the Archbishop of Cape Town and a maintenance fund consisting of a portfolio of investments held in respect of the Archbishopric of Cape Town. The maintenance of the house is financed locally and has been for over a century. The Council last received a valuation as at 31st May 2013 of £4.3 million for the property and £942,000 for the investments. As the Fund has no control over or beneficial interest in the assets, they have been included at nil value in the accounts. The Council had originally hoped to transfer the title of these assets to a newly formed charitable trust in South Africa for the benefit of the Archbishopric of Cape Town, during the latter part of 2013. There has however been no change in 2023 and it is hoped that matters will be concluded as soon as possible.

7. INVESTMENTS

Fund	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment for general objects	Endowment for specific diocese	**Total investments 2023**	Total investments 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments						
Balance at 1 January	7,893	601,716	3,750,471	11,164,644	**15,524,724**	17,585,673
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	-	57,135	356,670	1,059,569	**1,473,374**	(2,060,950)
Balance as at 31 December	7,893	658,851	4,107,141	12,224,213	**16,998,098**	15,524,723

Fund	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment for general objects	Endowment for specific diocese	**Total investments 2022**
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments					
Balance at 1 January	8,713	682,569	4,248,355	12,646,036	17,585,673
Net loss on revaluation	(820)	(80,853)	(497,885)	(1,481,392)	(2,060,950)
Balance as at 31 December	7,893	601,716	3,750,470	11,164,644	**15,524,723**

See note 6 in respect of investments held in the Bishopscourt maintenance fund.

All investments are held within the CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

8. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Accrued income	127,954	114,604
	127,954	114,604

9. CREDITORS

	2023	2022
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Grants payable	**324,604**	270,738
Accrued expenditure	**13,084**	12,459
	337,688	**283,197**

	2023	2022
Amount falling due after one year:	**£**	£
Grants payable	22,000	11,000
	22,000	**11,000**

Creditor balances consist of both dividend income due to the provinces, and general fund grants awarded by the Trustees.

10. EMPLOYEES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

There were no employees during the year. No remuneration has been paid to Council Members during the year. Reimbursement of travel & subsistence expenses paid to Council Members during the year was £234 (2022: £216).

Secretarial fees of £8,295 charged by Barlow Interventions Limited were expensed during 2023 (2022: £11,686) for services provided by Stephen Lyon, OBF Secretary. Stephen Lyon is the sole owner of Barlow Interventions Limited. As at 31 December 2023, £3,794 was owed to Barlow Interventions Limited (2022: £5,511).

There was no other remuneration to key management personnel during either the current or previous years.

11. ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
General Fund	94,765	146,761	(91,367)	-	-	**150,159**
Restricted Funds:						
China	*708,258*	*69,521*	*(25,924)*	*-*	*37,826*	***789,681***
Other	*358,590*	*282,716*	*(319,119)*	*-*	*19,309*	***341,496***
Restricted Funds - total	1,066,848	352,237	(345,043)	-	57,135	**1,131,177**
Endowment Funds	14,915,114	-	-	-	1,416,240	**16,331,354**
Total funds of the charity	16,076,727	498,998	(436,410)	**-**	1,473,375	**17,612,690**

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2022
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Unrestricted Funds:						
General Fund	107,004	121,148	(126,567)	(6,000)	(820)	94,765
Restricted Funds:						
China	*720,197*	*69,438*	*(23,445)*	*-*	*(57,932)*	*708,258*
Other	*389,569*	*282,502*	*(296,560)*	*6,000*	*(22,921)*	*358,590*
Restricted Funds - total	1,109,766	351,940	(320,005)	6,000	(80,853)	1,066,848
Endowment Funds	16,894,391	-	-	-	(1,979,277)	14,915,114
Total funds of the charity	18,111,161	473,088	(446,572)	-	(2,060,950)	16,076,727

Endowment Funds
Endowment investments are split based on whether there is a restriction in place on the income which these assets generate.

The OBF has a total of 37 (2022: 37) permanent endowment funds, the largest now being the recently amalgamated funds: OBF West Indies Fund at £2,474,000 (2022: £2,260,000), OBF China General Fund at £2,104,000 (2022: £1,846,000) and OBF India General Fund at £1,445,000 (2022: £1,362,000), valued at 31 December 2023.

11. ANALYSIS OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted Funds
These funds are for use for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa).

There are 34 (2022: 34) restricted income funds, the largest being the OBF China General Fund, valued at £790,000 at 31 December 2023 (£708,000 at 31 December 2022).

Unrestricted Funds: General Fund
This fund is for general use in meeting the OBF's charitable objectives and are not designated for specific purposes.

12. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	**2022**
Group	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	7,893	601,716	14,915,114	**15,524,723**
Current assets	178,378	667,823	-	**846,201**
Current liabilities	(80,506)	(202,691)	-	**(283,197)**
Non-current liabilities	(11,000)	-	-	**(11,000)**
Total net assets	94,765	1,066,848	14,915,114	**16,076,727**

Net assets between funds for the current year can be seen on the Balance Sheet statement on page 14.

13. RELATED PARTIES

During 2023, secretarial fees of £8,295 were charged by Barlow Interventions (2022: £11,686). See Note 10 for further details.

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 245334

Accounts

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Registered Charity 245334

CONTENTS

	Page
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	2
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022	3
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND	10
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022	13
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022	14
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022	16

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Overseas Bishoprics Fund is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Office
Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AZ

President
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

Members of the Council (trustees of the OBF) during 2022

Appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury
The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani
The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo

Representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church
Mr Sam Richardson (SPCK)
The Revd Duncan Dormor (USPG)
Mr Robert Dawes (The Mothers' Union)
Rev Andy Roberts (CMS)

Trustees appointed by the Council
The Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow (Chair of the Council)
Mr Colin Bird
Mr Stephen Slack
Mr Edward Chaplin
Mrs Janice Proud (appointed in June 2022)
The Revd Rana Khan (appointed in June 2022)

Officers
Mr Stephen Lyon (Secretary)
Mr Christopher Smith (Clerk) (until February 2023)

Auditor:	**Bankers:**	**Investment Managers:**
Crowe U.K LLP 55 Ludgate Hill London EC4M 7JW	Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN	CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London SW1E 5JL

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees of the Overseas Bishoprics Fund ("OBF") present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 17, and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

Structure, governance, management and remuneration
The governing document of the OBF is *The Rules for the Administration of the Fund*. This defines its object, the methods by which that may be achieved, the procedures for the appointment of its Council and officers, and the means by which its business may be transacted. These Rules were thoroughly reviewed, revised and approved by the OBF Council in November in 2019 and subsequently sent to the Charity Commission.

The Rules provide that all affairs of the OBF are to be controlled by its Council, consisting of not more than twelve trustees. New trustees receive an induction pack of relevant documents outlining all aspects of the workings of the Fund.

The OBF has no other related parties apart from Barlow Interventions Limited, a company run by the OBF Secretary. Barlow Interventions Limited charges the OBF periodically for secretarial work and related expenses. The level of remuneration for the OBF Secretary is set by the OBF every three years and it was agreed that from October 2018 a daily rate of £300 would be applied. This was uplifted in June 2022 to a daily rate of £350.

Appointment of Trustees
The composition of the OBF, in accordance with the updated 2019 rules of the Council, consists of not more than twelve members, who shall be the trustees of the Fund, as follows:

(a) two bishops appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a maximum term of 12 years;
(b) representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), the Church Mission Society (CMS) and the Mothers' Union (MU)) for a maximum term of 12 years; and
(c) up to six other members, appointed by the Council, for a maximum term of 12 years.

Statement of public benefit
The OBF believes that the Christian faith is of benefit to society and individuals as it brings a vision of transformation for peace and social harmony. This is derived from the belief of the Church that the ultimate purpose of God is to bring all things into unity and perfection in Jesus Christ.

The quality and security of the leadership within the Church is crucial in ensuring that this vision is realised. The OBF believes that the advancement of the Christian religion will be enhanced by the provision of "support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion".

The bishops whom the OBF supports, work in some of the neediest areas of the world. Their leadership benefits not only the Church but also the wider community and their nation and region. Their work often builds reconciliation, bringing community cohesion and stability through education, development and capacity building. They also provide vital links with the wider communities beyond those they primarily serve.

The OBF seeks to demonstrate this benefit through the way it addresses the needs of those in episcopal leadership within or closely associated with the Anglican Communion, as detailed in this report. When planning its activities for the year the Council has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Grant-making policy

The OBF makes grants out of its General Fund, to supplement the local funds of overseas bishoprics. In 2019 the Council reviewed its grant giving priorities and procedures producing a new set of Guidance Notes and a common Application Form. Support for initiatives that build Episcopal leadership capacity is now a high priority.

Grants are usually made for an individual year but in some cases multi-year commitments are made.
Every applicant for funding is strongly encouraged to provide:

- as much clarity as possible as to what other sources of support a bishopric is seeking or has received and the level of local support from within a bishopric;
- evidence of the support of the Primate or Provincial Secretary of the Province in which the applicant's bishopric is situated; and
- assurances that the Communion's own guidelines for the financing of new dioceses have been followed.

Income from each of the restricted funds is paid to the overseas diocese or province to which it relates. The income from each fund is therefore generally equal to the investment income less administration expenses for the year in question.

Objectives and activities

The Rules provide that the core object of the OBF is as follows:

(1) The object of the Fund shall be to provide support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion.

And, provide further guidance that:

(2) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom where there exists a church that is part of the Anglican Communion or in communion within the See of Canterbury, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of such a church; and
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(3) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of any church whose relationship with the Church of England is such that the Council of the Fund, having sought the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, judges it suitable that such assistance be given; and
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(4) In relation to any church in any of the above categories or in relation to any part of such a church, where there is not in place for the time being a system of Episcopal leadership, any reference in the above provisions to a bishopric shall have effect as if it were to the office and work of a senior national or regional leader of status equivalent to that of a bishop.

The OBF is unique in the Anglican Communion in that, whilst it is keen to work alongside other organisations supporting the worldwide Church more generally, its specific remit is to provide assistance for the work of bishops throughout the Communion outside the UK. These bishops provide the leadership necessary to enable the delivery of the vision that the Christian faith can bring about transformation for peace and social harmony.

The OBF seeks to achieve this in two ways. Firstly, it administers episcopal endowment trust funds on behalf of several dioceses and provinces and transfers accumulated income to them. Secondly, it makes grants to bishoprics.

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The Council does not currently undertake fundraising activity of any nature, is not registered with a fundraising regulator, has no commercial participators, and has received no complaints relating to fundraising during the year.

Risk management

The OBF's risk management process facilitates the identification of threats to achieving its objectives and the mitigation of these threats. The risk register is drawn up by the Secretary and reviewed by the OBF on a bi-annual basis. The OBF has agreed that the risks below are those which are the main barrier to achieving its objectives and are addressed through the mitigating strategies.

Risk area	Key mitigating strategies
Single fund manager for investments may lead to poorer investment returns, and capital value not maintained, impacting on ability to provide stable and sustainable distributions. Macro-economic events (e.g. Brexit, COVID-19) may impact investment performance and the sustainability of future distributions.	-Fund manager invests in diversified portfolio -Funds are held in deposit, investment fund and property fund shares -Performance of fund manager compared to other fund managers -Access to investment performance reports produced by Archbishops' Council Investment Committee -Regular meetings between the fund manager and the Council to discuss investment policies and performance
Inadequate documentation of Fund details may lead to delay in payments and requirements of funds are not fully complied with.	-New staff working on OBF matters are given an induction on purpose and work of the Fund -Files are held centrally for all key documents -Database is maintained of all Bishopric details
Grant allocations may not cover certain needy Bishoprics leading to OBF not seen as supporting the whole of the Communion	-Mission agencies are involved to obtain knowledge of local area -Trustees and Council members who have knowledge of the Bishoprics, and the areas in which they operate, are involved in grant allocation.
Funds may be overspent in the UK and misappropriated overseas	-Two signatories for every payment over £500 -Fund secretary holds latest records for administering the funds to ensure payments reach intended recipients -Admin charges deducted before income payments are made -Purposes of the Fund outlined to recipients each time an income payment is made -All grants agreed by the Council as appropriate -Payments must be made to a provincial or diocesan account (i.e. not a personal one) - Confirmation of receipt of funds are sent by the grantee to the secretary to the OBF together with a signed agreement that the grant or income will only be used for the specific purposes stated or in line with the objectives of the OBF. In addition, a summary is requested of the way in which previous grants have been spent
Poor succession planning and knowledge management leads to disruption in the work of the OBF.	-Put succession plan in place -Share knowledge of working of the Fund across finance department -Work collaboratively with other similar funding bodies

Activities of the OBF Council in the year to 31 December 2022

2022 saw the UK coming out of the global pandemic of the Coronavirus. For the OBF it meant that we were able to resume our face-to-face meetings. The longer-term effects of the virus continued to influence life across the Anglican Communion and is a contributing factor in some grant applications. During the year the global turbulence of the war in Ukraine and domestic political upheavals have affected the levels of income available to us.

Grants

In 2022 the OBF approved grants of £123,700 from its General Fund – £90,700 to be distributed in that year and the remainder promised for subsequent years. It also distributed £32,000 from its India Funds to the United Churches of the 'Indian Sub-continent'.

In June 2022 the OBF made the following new grants from its General Fund:

i. **Bishopric of Yei, South Sudan** – a one-off grant of £7,000 towards the building of the bishop's house was agreed by Council.
ii. **Bishopric of Lweru, Tanzania –** a grant of £16,000 over two years, with a report on progress in May 2023, was agreed by Council towards the building of the bishop's house.
iii. **Province of IAMA** – a grant of £25,000 to the Province to be used, at the discretion of the province, to support the stipends of the new bishops over the next three years. As there was a delay in the election of their new Primate, who would be involved in the decisions as to which bishoprics would receive support, the transfer of the grant was put on hold. With the election completed in early 2023, the grant was transferred following a decision at the June 2023 Council Meeting.

The postponed Lambeth Conference took place in the summer of 2022 and the OBF hosted a reception at the conference to publicise the work of the Fund. Following that meeting we received several applications at our November meeting. At that meeting the following new grants were awarded from its General Funds:

i. **Bishopric of Rokon** – Requested around £7,000 towards the stipend of the new bishop. Trustees approved a grant towards the additional 6 months of the first year as well as for the second and third year. £3,500 immediately, then £5,000, £3,000 approved. Total £11,500 in addition to original emergency grant.
ii. **Lusitanian Church, Portugal** – a request for support for the overall travel and accommodation costs of the bishop's ministry. Trustees thought that giving a grant would be a huge encouragement to a global north church with many characteristics of global south. £12,000 total over three years - £5,000 (Yr.1), £4,000 (Yr.2) & £3,000 (Yr.3) Approved.
iii. **Bishopric of Kalima, DR Congo –** Request for approx. £8,000 for a secure fence around the bishop's residence, with a very detailed budget. Trustees considered it important to contribute towards the whole fence being built due to insecure context. Approved one off grant of £7,000.
iv. **Bishopric of Sunyani, Ghana** – a grant towards completion of repairs to the bishop's residence. The budget shows that the funding is to improve basics, not to make it luxurious and that they are also contributing to the work. Grant of £5,000 approved.
v. **Bishopric of SW Tanganyika, Tanzania** - a grant towards the repair of the bishop's car following a bad accident as the list of work in the estimate outlined. As travel is essential in this large diocese, trustees approved a one-off grant of £10,000, continent on other funds being in place.
vi. **Bishopric of Toliara, Madagascar** - a grant towards support of the stipend and transportation for the ministry of the bishop. The Bishop recognises it will take time to build up the resources he needs and tailored his application accordingly. Trustees also recognised that

Madagascar needs support in their very challenging situation. Approved funding of £4,500 (Yr.1), £3000 (Yr.2), £2000 (Yr.3). Total £9,500

vii. **Bishoprics of SW, S and Pelotas, Brazil –** a request for upgrading the bishop's houses. Due to this being a modest request supported by photographic evidence and the first request received by the OBF from Brazil, trustees approved the full amount of £11,700.

viii. **Bishopric of Kejo-Keji, ECSS** – a grant over 3 years towards the renting of the bishop's house in Moyo, West Nile, Uganda and towards the costs of the bishop's ministry among the refugees settled in Uganda. Trustees approved £4,000 (Yr.1), £3,000 (Yr.2), £2,000 (Yr.3). Total of £9,000.

The India Funds support the on-going work of the bishoprics in **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka**. The importance of these grants can perhaps best be gauged by the fact that the OBF, from both these general funds and further restricted funds, is able to offer a significant proportion of the amount of the bishops' stipends in the Church of North India, and to make considerable contributions to the other Churches that are beneficiaries of these Funds.

Postponed 2020 Lambeth Conference

The Conference took place in the summer of 2022. The Council agreed that grants either already given or promised to the Lambeth Conference Company towards the costs of the Conference would be honoured. These grants enabled bishops, unable to pay their own air fares or conference fees, to come to Lambeth in 2022 as part of their development and to support their episcopal ministries.

As it was anticipated that Covid might continue to be a factor in 2022, the Lambeth Conference planning group decided that the Pre-Lambeth Hospitality Initiative, due to be offered by dioceses in England, Wales, and Scotland, would no longer take place. Participants in the Conference travelled directly to Canterbury. The OBF grants, agreed in 2019, to support certain costs incurred by these UK dioceses were no longer required. The return of these grants was requested in January 2022 and all monies transferred have been returned to the OBF.

Rationalisation of the OBF funds

Work continues to seek permission from the Charity Commission to rationalise the different funds relating to China, the Indian Sub-Continent and those in the Province of the Church of North India in the following manner:

- **OBF China Fund** – to create a scheme where all the present China Funds can be incorporated into one fund and applied to all areas overseen by the China Christian Council;
- **OBF North India Fund** – to rationalise all funds linked to individual dioceses in the CNI into one new Fund, in keeping with practice since the inception of the CNI.
- **OBF India Sub-Continent General Fund** – to rationalise all the India Funds into this one fund.

China Funds

Trustees had hoped to discuss with the leadership of the China Christian Council the use and distribution of the OBF funds held in their name. It was anticipated that this might happen on the fringes of the 2020 Lambeth Conference. When the Conference was postponed planning these conversations was put on hold hoping that, if the leadership come to the 2022 Conference, the conversations might happen then. Sadly, due to the ongoing prevalence of Covid in China the delegation did not travel to the 2022 Conference. Therefore, a review of the use and disbursement of the China funds will need to be dealt with in some other way.

In 2022, in line with permission granted by the Charity Commission, income from the China funds was used to support bishoprics where there was a ministry to a significant Chinese population. The first grants of this kind were agreed at the November 2022 meeting and made to the Bishoprics of Mandalay and Yangon, both in Myanmar.

Bishopscourt, Cape Town, South Africa

During 2012 all the necessary arrangements were put in place to transfer ownership of Bishopscourt (the home and office of the Archbishop of Cape Town since the 1840s) to a similar trust in South Africa. At its meeting in November 2012 the Council of the OBF approved:

- a draft Deed of Trust establishing the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust, the principal objects of which are "to establish and maintain Anglican bishoprics within the province of Southern Africa, and in particular the Archbishopric of Cape Town"; and
- a draft Deed of Donation transferring to it the freehold of Bishopscourt and the associated funds.

This transfer still continues to be delayed, due mainly to the complexity of the registration process of the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust in South Africa. The OBF Council has passed a resolution that when the transfer of the freehold takes place the capital currently held in all other South African funds held presently by the OBF will also be transferred to the new Trust: the Cape Town English Endowment Fund, the Cape Town South Africa Endowment Fund, the Bloemfontein Fund, the George Fund, the Natal Fund and the Pretoria Fund.

Governance Matters

Trustees decided this year to give time at each Council meeting to review an aspect of its governance seeking to review issues and, where necessary, improve policies. The agreed pattern is:

> Year 1 (June): Governance Policies – Rules, Risk Register and Conflict of Interest Register.
> Year 1 (November): Charity Purpose and objectives and consequent future major tasks (so allowing a high-level discussion every two years on how we feel God is calling us to steward the responsibilities we hold).
> Year 2 (June): Management Policies - Financial Controls including Reserves and Investment policies (Including a presentation by CCLA/our fund managers); Diversity and Inclusion; and Risk Register
> Year 2 (November): Strategic Partnerships - on some occasions this could include participation by a key partner such as ACF or St. Augustine's Foundation.

The changes to the Rules outlined in last year's Annual Report were ratified at the June 2022 Council meeting. These were mainly in relation to the composition of the Council. As part of the exercise, we also amended the Rules to cover our virtual meetings and reviewed the patronage list (Vice-Presidents) which was deemed to be outdated. As a result of these changes, when they were ratified in June 2022, there were several changes in the trustee body:

Bishop Henry Scriven, Richard Woods, Janice Price and Sue Parks stood-down as trustees and Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqni, Janice Proud, Edward Chaplin and Rana Khan become trustees. The OBF has always been well served by its trustees and valued the unique contribution each one makes to its work. We will miss the wisdom and insights offered by Henry, Richard, Janice and Sue as we welcome all that our new trustees will offer to the work.

Future Plans

As the OBF specifically serves those leading the Anglican Communion – its bishops – its own future will be linked to that of the Communion. The Coronavirus not only caused the postponement of the Lambeth Conference but also continues to challenge the mission and administration of all the Churches in the Anglican Communion as they seek to respond to the situations they face. The effects of the virus are likely to be factors in applications that will come to the OBF. We saw this year that many of the applications were for basic repairs to bishops' housing and stipends.

We will continue to address how we might support the desire, in many places across the Communion, to build up the capacity of the bishops through training, support, mentoring and retreat.

In 2021 the Anglican Communion inaugurated the new Province of *Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola* – the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola [IAMA]. This was formed by the Anglican dioceses in the two Lusophone countries that, until that date, had been part of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. In creating the new Province, the Communion also created 8 new dioceses. The OBF has already been approached to offer support to the new Province in 2022 and beyond. During the year we responded to the support requested.

More generally, the OBF will continue to have calls on its resources to support the on-going work of bishops in areas of the Communion challenged by poverty, war, disease and famine where the Church is often the sole means of support for many communities. The present global financial constraints will continue to make this contribution even more important.

The OBF has continued its explorations in establishing links with other organisations with kindred aims, such as the Anglican Communion Fund and St Augustine's Foundation, to ensure that available funding is targeted most effectively.

Financial review

The total net assets for which the OBF has responsibility at the end of 2022 were £16,076,727 (2021: £18,111,161). Of these assets:

- Unrestricted funds ("the General Fund"), which can be used for the setting up and maintenance of bishoprics generally, were £94,765 (2021: £107,004).
- Restricted funds, which must be used for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa), were £1,066,848 (2021: £1,109,766).
- the remaining £14,915,114 (2021: £16,894,391) were the permanent endowment funds of which £3,750,460 (2021: £4,248,355) generates income for general objects and £11,164,644 (2021: £12,646,036) generates income restricted to specific dioceses or regions.

The capital value of these funds, and the income generated by them, fluctuate according to market conditions.

Investment powers, policy and performance

Investments are held within Church of England Funds that are managed by CCLA Ltd. The Council reviews investment performance during the year, on the basis of reports received from CCLA Ltd. The funds are invested to maintain capital growth, whilst providing suitable levels of income to provide a reliable grant stream to the bishoprics. During the year the total value of the investment funds decreased by £2,060,950, made up of losses on revaluation (2021: increased by £1,017,836, made up gains on revaluation of £2,240,687 and disposals of £412,856). The amount of investment income received was £473,088 (2021: £456,759).

Reserves policy

During 2020 the Council examined the requirements of the OBF in accordance with guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The Council believe that the level of free reserves from the unrestricted General Funds should be not less than £40,000, in order to provide sufficient working capital and to deal with unforeseen requests for emergency funding. As at 31 December 2022, as there are currently no designated funds, free reserves totalled £94,765.

The value of endowment funds held at 31 December 2022 was £14,915,114.

Going concern

The Council has assessed expected cash flows for 2023 and the 12 months beyond the date of signing. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have not communicated a change to the expected investment income for 2023, despite challenging market conditions and continued geopolitical uncertainty. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out on above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The Council is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the OBF and of its incoming resources and application of those resources for the period in question. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed (subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements); and
- prepare the financial statements on the "going concern" basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements are correctly prepared. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the OBF, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Council on 15 September 2023 and signed on its behalf:

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow

Chair of the Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept by the charity; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 10, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations were regulations concerning the international transfer of money.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond

to these risks included enquiries of management and the Trustees about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor

London

Date 27 October 2023

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022 Total £
Income from:					
Investments	3	121,148	351,940	-	473,088
Total income					
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Support of bishops	4	(126,567)	(320,005)	-	(446,572)
Total expenditure					
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		(5,419)	31,935		26,516
Gain on investments		(820)	(80,853)	(1,979,277)	(2,060,950)
Net expenditure		**(6,239)**	**(48,918)**	**(1,979,277)**	**(2,034,434)**
Transfers between funds		(6,000)	6,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(12,239)**	**(42,918)**	**(1,979,277)**	**(2,034,434)**
Total funds at 1 January:		**107,004**	**1,109,766**	**16,894,391**	**18,111,161**
Total funds at 31 December		**94,765**	**1,066,848**	**14,915,114**	**16,076,727**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £
Income from:					
Investments	3	109,347	347,412	-	456,759
Total income		109,347	347,412	-	456,759
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Support of bishops	4	(47,147)	(184,279)	(412,856)	(644,282)
Total expenditure		(47,147)	(184,279)	(412,856)	(644,282)
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		**62,200**	**163,133**	**(412,856)**	**(187,523)**
Gain on investments		1,098	84,013	2,155,576	2,240,687
Net income		**63,298**	**247,146**	**1,742,720**	**2,053,164**
Transfers between funds	5				
Net movement in funds		**63,298**	**247,146**	**1,742,720**	**2,053,164**
Total funds at 1 January:		43,706	862,620	15,151,671	16,057,997
Total funds at 31 December		**107,004**	**1,109,766**	**16,894,391**	**18,111,161**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	5	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	6	7,893	601,716	14,915,114	15,524,723	17,585,673
		7,893	**601,716**	**14,915,114**	**15,524,723**	**17,585,673**
Current assets						
Cash & cash equivalents		150,004	581,593	-	731,597	597,383
Debtors	7	28,374	86,230	-	114,604	114,898
		178,378	**667,823**	-	**846,201**	**712,281**
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(80,506)	(202,691)	-	(283,197)	(180,076)
Net current assets		**97,872**	**465,132**	-	**563,004**	**532,205**
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8	(11,000)	-	-	(11,000)	(6,717)
Total net assets		94,765	1,066,848	14,915,114	**16,076,727**	**18,111,161**
The funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds - General		94,765	-	-	**94,765**	107,004
Restricted funds		-	1,066,848	-	**1,066,848**	1,109,766
Endowment funds		-	-	14,915,114	**14,915,114**	16,894,391
Total funds		94,765	1,066,848	14,915,114	**16,076,727**	**18,111,161**

Approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 15 September 2023 and signed on its behalf:

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow
Chairman of Council

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		**£**	£
Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)		26,516	(187,523)
Investment income	3	(473,088)	(456,759)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	8	107,404	(60,805)
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	7	294	(1,453)
Net cash flow (used in) operating activities		**(338,874)**	**(706,540)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	3	473,088	456,759
Disposal of fixed asset investments		-	412,853
Net cash flow provided by investing activities		473,088	**869,612**
Net cash flow provided by financing activities		134,214	163,073
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		597,383	434,310
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**731,597**	**597,383**

Analysis of cash & cash equivalents & changes in net debt:

	At 1 Jan 2022	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	597,383	134,214	-	**731,597**
TOTAL	597,383	134,214	-	**731,597**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal Status
The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ("OBF") is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Basis of Preparation
The charity's financial information has been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102");
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

The OBF meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity ("PBE") as set out in FRS 100, and therefore applies the PBE prefixed paragraphs in FRS 102.

The financial information has been prepared on the historical cost basis (except for the revaluation of investments) and on the accruals basis.

These financial statements comprise all the OBF's unrestricted, designated, restricted and endowment funds drawn up to 31 December each year.

A summary of the accounting policies, which have been applied consistently across the group, is set out below.

Going Concern
The Council has assessed expected cash flows for 2023 and 2024. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have not communicated a change to the expected investment income for 2023. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out on above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Funds Structure
Endowment funds are capital funds where the Council has no power to spend the capital but where the income generated from the invested funds is available for expenditure. Endowment funds fall into two categories: endowments for specific dioceses or provinces; and endowments for the general objects of the charity. Income from endowments for specific dioceses or provinces is treated as restricted income and income from endowment for the general objects of the charity is treated as unrestricted income.

Income and Expenditure
Dividends and other interest are recognised on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as a liability when a firm commitment to pay the grant is made.

Investment and Gains and Losses on Investment Assets
Investments are stated in the financial statements at market value. Gains or losses on investments are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. TAXATION

The Fund is a registered charity and as such is exempt from taxation on its income and gains to the extent that they are applied to its charitable purposes.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	112,707	351,924	-	**464,631**	**456,609**
Interest on cash and deposit funds	8,441	16	-	**8,457**	**150**
	121,148	**351,940**	-	**473,088**	**456,759**

4. SUPPORT OF BISHOPS

Support of bishops comprises grants awarded from unrestricted funds at the discretion of the Council and payments of net income from restricted funds. Support costs comprising of administration expenses of the Fund plus Governance Costs have been allocated to this activity cost category.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants committed	135,552	282,613	-	**418,165**	**208,111**
Grants written back	(17,510)	-	-	**(17,510)**	**(7,000)**
Transfer to JMECA	-	-	-	**-**	**412,856**
Support costs	8,525	37,392	-	**45,917**	**30,315**
	126,567	320,005	-	**446,572**	**644,282**

2021 expenditure was made up of £47,147 of unrestricted expenditure and £184,279 of restricted expenditure. Additionally, a transfer of the assets held in the Egypt fund was made to the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA).

Governance costs, included within support costs, are made up of:-	2022	2021
	£	£
Auditors remuneration	7,650	7,150
Legal Fees	9,336	-
	16,986	**7,150**

5. PROPERTY

The Fund is the trustee of an historical house, Bishopscourt, in Cape Town, occupied by the Archbishop of Cape Town and a maintenance fund consisting of a portfolio of investments held in respect of the Archbishopric of Cape Town. The maintenance of the house is financed locally and has been for over a century. The Council last received a valuation as at 31st May 2013 of £4.3 million for the property and £942,000 for the investments. As the Fund has no control over or beneficial interest in the assets, they have been included at nil value in the accounts. The Council had originally hoped to transfer the title of these assets to a newly formed charitable trust in South Africa for the benefit of the Archbishopric of Cape Town, during the latter part of 2013. There has however been no change in 2022 and it is hoped that matters will be concluded as soon as possible.

6. INVESTMENTS

Fund	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment for general objects**	**Endowment for specific diocese**	**Total investments 2022**	Total investments 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments						
Balance at 1 January	8,713	682,569	4,248,355	12,646,036	**17,585,673**	15,757,841
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(412,856)
Net surplus on revaluation	(820)	(80,853)	(497,885)	(1,481,392)	**(2,060,950)**	2,240,687
Balance as at 31 December	7,893	601,716	3,750,470	11,164,644	**15,524,723**	17,585,673

Fund	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment for general objects**	**Endowment for specific diocese**	**Total investments 2021**
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments					
Balance at 1 January	7,615	598,555	3,714,284	11,437,387	**15,757,841**
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(412,856)	**(412,856)**
Net surplus on revaluation	1,098	84,013	534,071	1,621,505	**2,240,687**
Balance as at 31 December	8,713	682,569	4,248,355	12,646,036	**17,585,673**

See note 5 in respect of investments held in the Bishopscourt maintenance fund.

All investments are held within the CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

7. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Accrued income	114,604	114,898
	114,604	**114,898**

8. CREDITORS

	2022	2021
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Grants payable	64,762	168,064
Accrued expenditure	218,435	12,013
	283,197	**180,077**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amount falling due after one year:		
Grants payable	11,000	6,717
	11,000	**6,717**

Creditor balances consist of both dividend income due to the provinces, and general fund grants awarded by the Trustees.

9. EMPLOYEES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

There were no employees during the year. No remuneration has been paid to Council Members during the year. Reimbursement of travel & subsistence expenses paid to Council Members during the year was £216 (2021: £nil).

Secretarial fees of £11,686 charged by Barlow Interventions Limited were expensed during 2022 (2021: £9,735) for services provided by Stephen Lyon, OBF Secretary. Stephen Lyon, along with his related parties, is the sole owner of Barlow Interventions Limited. As at 31 December 2022, £5,511 was owed to Barlow Interventions Limited (2021: £4,863).

There was no other remuneration to key management personnel during either the current or previous years.

There are 34 (2021: 34) restricted income funds, the largest being the OBF China General Fund, valued at £708,000 at 31 December 2022 (£720,000 at 31 December 2021).

Unrestricted Funds: General Fund
This fund is for general use in meeting the OBF's charitable objectives and are not designated for specific purposes.

11. RELATED PARTIES

During 2022, secretarial fees of £11,686 were charged by Barlow Interventions (2021: £9,735). See Note 9 for further details.

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 245334

Accounts

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Registered Charity 245334

CONTENTS

	Page
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	2
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 202	3
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND	11
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	14
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021	15
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	17

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Overseas Bishoprics Fund is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Office
Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AZ

President
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

Vice-Presidents
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of York,
The Most Revd the Lord Archbishops of Armagh, Dublin and Wales
The Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland

Members of the Council (trustees of the OBF) during 2021

Appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury
The Rt Revd Henry Scriven
The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo

The Director of the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council
The Revd Malcolm Brown (represented at meetings up to June 2021 by Ms Janice Price, the Church of England World Mission Policy Adviser)

Representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church
Mr Sam Richardson (SPCK)
The Revd Duncan Dormor (USPG)
Mr Robert Dawes (The Mothers' Union)
Rev Andy Roberts (CMS) (appointed in November 2021)

Trustees appointed by the Council
Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow (Chairman of the Council)
Mr Richard Woods
Mr Colin Bird
Miss Sue Parks
Mr Stephen Slack

Officers
Mr Stephen Lyon (Secretary)
Mr Christopher Smith (Clerk)

Auditors:	**Bankers:**	**Investment Managers:**
Crowe U.K LLP 55 Ludgate Hill London EC4M 7JW	Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN	CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London SW1E 5JL

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees of the Overseas Bishoprics Fund ("OBF") present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 17, and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

Structure, governance, management and remuneration
The governing document of the OBF is *The Rules for the Administration of the Fund.* This defines its object, the methods by which that may be achieved, the procedures for the appointment of its Council and officers, and the means by which its business may be transacted. These Rules were thoroughly reviewed, revised and approved by the OBF Council in November in 2019 and subsequently sent to the Charity Commission.

The Rules provide that all affairs of the OBF are to be controlled by its Council, consisting of not more than twelve trustees. New trustees receive an induction pack of relevant documents outlining all aspects of the workings of the Fund.

The OBF has no other related parties apart from Barlow Interventions Limited, a company run by the OBF Secretary. Barlow Interventions Limited charges the OBF periodically for secretarial work and related expenses. The level of remuneration for the OBF Secretary is set by the OBF every three years and it was agreed that from 1st October 2018 a daily rate of £300 would be applied.

Appointment of Trustees
The composition of the OBF, in accordance with the updated 2019 rules of the Council, consists of not more than twelve members, who shall be the trustees of the Fund, as follows:

(a) the Director of the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council or, in the event of that office no longer subsisting, the holder of the equivalent office in succession to it, by virtue of his or her office;
(b) two bishops appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a maximum term of 12 years;
(c) representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), the Church Mission Society (CMS) and the Mothers' Union (MU)) for a maximum term of 12 years; and
(d) up to five other members, appointed by the Council, for a maximum term of 12 years.

Statement of public benefit
The OBF believes that the Christian faith is of benefit to society and individuals as it brings a vision of transformation for peace and social harmony. This is derived from the belief of the Church that the ultimate purpose of God is to bring all things into unity and perfection in Jesus Christ.

The quality and security of the leadership within the Church is crucial in ensuring that this vision is realised. The OBF believes that the advancement of the Christian religion will be enhanced by the provision of "support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion".

The bishops whom the OBF supports, work in some of the neediest areas of the world. Their leadership benefits not only the Church but also the wider community and their nation and region. Their work often builds reconciliation, bringing community cohesion and stability through education, development and capacity building. They also provide vital links with the wider communities beyond those they primarily serve.

The OBF seeks to demonstrate this benefit through the way it addresses the needs of those in episcopal leadership within or closely associated with the Anglican Communion, as detailed in this report. When planning its activities for the year the Council has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Grant-making policy

The OBF makes grants out of its General Fund, to supplement the local funds of overseas bishoprics. In 2019 the Council reviewed its grant giving priorities and procedures producing a new set of Guidance Notes and a common Application Form. Support for initiatives that build Episcopal leadership capacity is now a high priority.

Grants are usually made for an individual year but in some cases multi-year commitments are made.
Every applicant for funding is strongly encouraged to provide:

- as much clarity as possible as to what other sources of support a bishopric is seeking or has received and the level of local support from within a bishopric;
- evidence of the support of the Primate or Provincial Secretary of the Province in which the applicant's bishopric is situated; and
- assurances that the Communion's own guidelines for the financing of new dioceses have been followed.

Income from each of the restricted funds is paid to the overseas diocese or province to which it relates. The income from each fund is therefore generally equal to the investment income less administration expenses for the year in question.

Objectives and activities

The Rules provide that the core object of the OBF is as follows:

(1) The object of the Fund shall be to provide support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion.

And, provide further guidance that:

(2) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom where there exists a church that is part of the Anglican Communion or in communion within the See of Canterbury, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of such a church; and
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(3) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of any church whose relationship with the Church of England is such that the Council of the Fund, having sought the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, judges it suitable that such assistance be given; and
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(4) In relation to any church in any of the above categories or in relation to any part of such a church, where there is not in place for the time being a system of Episcopal leadership, any reference in the above provisions to a bishopric shall have effect as if it were to the office and work of a senior national or regional leader of status equivalent to that of a bishop.

The OBF is unique in the Anglican Communion in that, whilst it is keen to work alongside other organisations supporting the worldwide Church more generally, its specific remit is to provide assistance for the work of bishops throughout the Communion outside the UK. These bishops provide the leadership necessary to enable the delivery of the vision that the Christian faith can bring about transformation for peace and social harmony.

The OBF seeks to achieve this in two ways. Firstly, it administers episcopal endowment trust funds on behalf of several dioceses and provinces and transfers accumulated income to them. Secondly, it makes grants to bishoprics.

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The Council does not currently undertake fundraising activity of any nature, is not registered with a fundraising regulator, has no commercial participators, and has received no complaints relating to fundraising during the year.

Risk management

The OBF's risk management policy outlines its approach to risk management, and the respective roles and responsibilities of members and finance staff in mitigating the identified risks.

Risk area	Key mitigating strategies
Single fund manager for investments may lead to poorer investment returns, and capital value not maintained, impacting on ability to provide stable and sustainable distributions. Macro-economic events (e.g. Brexit, COVID-19) may impact investment performance and the sustainability of future distributions.	-Fund manager invests in diversified portfolio -Funds are held in deposit, investment fund and property fund shares -Performance of fund manager compared to other fund managers -Access to investment performance reports produced by Archbishops' Council Investment Committee -Regular meetings between the fund manager and the Council to discuss investment policies and performance
Inadequate documentation of Fund details may lead to delay in payments and requirements of funds are not fully complied with.	-New staff working on OBF matters are given an induction on purpose and work of the Fund -Files are held centrally for all key documents -Database is maintained of all Bishopric details
Grant allocations may not cover certain needy Bishoprics leading to OBF not seen as supporting the whole of the Communion	-Mission agencies are involved to obtain knowledge of local area -Trustees and Council members who have knowledge of the Bishoprics, and the areas in which they operate, are involved in grant allocation.
Funds may be overspent in the UK and misappropriated overseas	-Two signatories for every payment over £500 -Fund secretary holds latest records for administering the funds to ensure payments reach intended recipients -Admin charges deducted before income payments are made -Purposes of the Fund outlined to recipients each time an income payment is made -All grants agreed by the Council as appropriate -Payments must be made to a provincial or diocesan account (i.e. not a personal one) - Confirmation of receipt of funds are sent by the grantee to the secretary to the OBF together with a signed agreement that the grant or income will only be used for the specific purposes stated or in line with the objectives of the OBF. In addition, a summary is requested of the way in which previous grants have been spent
Poor succession planning and knowledge management leads to disruption in the work of the OBF.	-Put succession plan in place -Share knowledge of working of the Fund across finance department -Work collaboratively with other similar funding bodies

Activities of the OBF Council in the year to 31 December 2021

2021 has been another challenging year due to the global pandemic of the Coronavirus. For the OBF it meant that we met virtually for our June trustees' meetings but were able to meet face to face in November. The longer-term effects of the virus continue to influence life across the Anglican Communion and will no doubt be a contributing factor in some future grant applications.

Grants

In 2021 the OBF approved grants of £47,854 from its General Fund – £41,140 to be distributed in that year and the remainder promised for subsequent years. It also granted £34,000 from its India Funds to the United Churches of the 'Indian Sub-continent'.

Due to the trustees' desire to support as fully as possible the Lambeth Conference, planned for 2020 but postponed until 2022, the level of grants made in 2021 was greatly reduced. Most of the six new grants were made to African provinces with one covering three widely geographically spread Brazilian dioceses.

So, in 2021 the OBF made the following new grants from its General Fund:

- **Bishopric of North Mbale, Uganda** – a grant of just over £5,000 over three years towards the support of the bishop's stipend.
- **Internal Province of Ghana, West Africa** – total grant of £11,600 over three years towards the cost of building new provincial offices in Accra that will also support the work of its bishops by providing a base in the capital city.
- **Province of Burundi** – a one-off grant of £8,000 towards the repair costs of the vehicle used by, and the other travel expenses of, the Archbishop enabling him to visit across the Province.
- **Provincial Area 2 in the Province of Brazil** – a one-off grant of £6,000 towards the travel costs of the bishops in this scattered area allowing them to visit the congregations and clergy.
- **Bishopric of Biharamulo, Tanzania** – a one-off grant of £8,000 towards the cost of building the bishops office.
- **Bishopric of Goma, DR Congo** – a total grant of approx. £10,250 over three years towards the purchase of a vehicle for the yet to be appointed new bishop in the diocese.

The India Funds support the on-going work of the bishoprics in **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka**. The importance of these grants can perhaps best be gauged by the fact that the OBF, from both these general funds and further restricted funds, is able to offer a significant proportion of the amount of the bishops' stipends in the Church of North India, and to enable considerable contributions to the other Churches that are beneficiaries of these Funds.

During 2021, following a due diligence exercise, trustees also reinstated our grant making relationship with the Church of South India [CSI] which had been suspended for several years due to a lack of accountability in relation to transferred monies. Following Emails and a Zoomed conversation with the leadership of the Church these issues have been resolved and grants from the India Funds were resumed. It is expected that in 2022 income payments from the OBF Tirunelveli and Dornakal fund [both CSI bishoprics], which were suspended for the same reasons, will also be resumed.

2020 Lambeth Conference

Due to Covid-19 the residential component of the 2020 Lambeth Conference was postponed and is now planned to take place in the summer of 2022. The Council agreed that grants either already given or promised to the Lambeth Conference Company towards the costs of the Conference would be honoured. These grants will afford bishops, unable to pay their own air fares or conference fees, the opportunity to come to Lambeth 2022 as part of their development and to support their episcopal ministries.

As it was anticipated that Covid might continue to be a factor in 2022, the Lambeth Conference planning group decided that the Pre-Lambeth Hospitality Initiative, due to be offered by dioceses in England, Wales, and Scotland, will no longer take place. Participants in the Conference will now travel directly to Canterbury. The OBF grants, agreed in 2019, to support certain costs incurred by these UK dioceses would, therefore, be no longer required. The return of these grants was requested in January 2022 and all monies transferred not used for these purposes have been returned to the OBF.

Rationalisation of the OBF funds
Work still continues to seek permission from the Charity Commission to rationalise the different funds relating to China, the Indian Sub-Continent and those in the Province of the Church of North India in the following manner:

- **OBF China Fund** – to create a scheme where all the present China Funds can be incorporated into one fund and applied to all areas overseen by the China Christian Council;
- **OBF North India Fund** – to rationalise all funds linked to individual dioceses in the CNI into one new Fund, in keeping with practice since the inception of the CNI.
- **OBF India Sub-Continent General Fund** – to rationalise all the India Funds into this one fund.

China Funds
Trustees had hoped to discuss with the leadership of the China Christian Council the use and distribution of the OBF funds held in their name. It was anticipated that this might happen on the fringes of the 2020 Lambeth Conference. When the Conference was postponed planning these conversations was put on hold and it is hoped that, if the leadership come to the 2022 Conference, the conversations might happen then. Failing that, a review of the use and disbursement of the China funds will need to be dealt with in some other way.

Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association
Following the resolution made in 2018 and subsequent permission from the Charity Commission, the assets of the Egypt fund have now been transferred to the Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association (JMECA). This transfer was made up of investment assets totalling £412,856 and a cash balance of £14,583, being a total transfer of £427,439.

Bishopscourt, Cape Town, South Africa
During 2012 all the necessary arrangements were put in place to transfer ownership of Bishopscourt (the home and office of the Archbishop of Cape Town since the 1840s) to a similar trust in South Africa. At its meeting in November 2012 the Council of the OBF approved:

- a draft Deed of Trust establishing the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust, the principal objects of which are "to establish and maintain Anglican bishoprics within the province of Southern Africa, and in particular the Archbishopric of Cape Town"; and
- a draft Deed of Donation transferring to it the freehold of Bishopscourt and the associated funds.

This transfer continues to be delayed, due mainly to the complexity of the registration process of the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust in South Africa. The OBF Council has passed a resolution that when the transfer of the freehold takes place the capital currently held in all other South African funds held presently by the OBF will also be transferred to the new Trust: the Cape Town English Endowment Fund, the Cape Town South Africa Endowment Fund, the Bloemfontein Fund, the George Fund, the Natal Fund and the Pretoria Fund.

Governance Matters
Trustees decided this year to give time at each Council meeting to review an aspect of its governance seeking to review issues and, where necessary, improve policies. The agreed pattern is:

> Year 1 (June): Governance Policies – Rules, Risk Register and Conflict of Interest Register.
> Year 1 (November): Charity Purpose and objectives and consequent future major tasks (so allowing a high-level discussion every two years on how we feel God is calling us to steward the responsibilities we hold).

Year 2 (June): Management Policies - Financial Controls including Reserves and Investment policies (Including a presentation by CCLA/our fund managers); Diversity and Inclusion; and Risk Register
Year 2 (November): Strategic Partnerships - on some occasions this could include participation by a key partner such as ACF or St. Augustine's Foundation.

In reviewing the Rules, in the light of several changes of personnel and circumstances, it was agreed in November 2021 that we would change several Rules, mainly in relation to the composition of the Council. As part of the exercise, we also amended the Rules to cover our virtual meetings and reviewed the patronage list (Vice-Presidents) which was deemed to be outdated. As a result of these changes, when they are ratified in June 2022, there will be several changes in the trustee body:

Bishop Henry Scriven, Richard Woods, Janice Price and Sue Parks will stand-down as trustees and Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqni, Janice Proud, Edward Chaplin and Rana Khan will become trustees. The OBF has always been well served by its trustees and valued the unique contribution each one makes to its work. We will miss the wisdom and insights offered by Henry, Richard, Janice and Sue as we welcome all that our new trustees will offer to the work.

Future Plans

As the OBF specifically serves those leading the Anglican Communion – its bishops – its own future will be linked to that of the Communion. The Coronavirus not only caused the postponement of the Lambeth Conference but challenged the mission and administration of all the Churches in the Anglican Communion as they sought to respond to the situations they faced. The effects of the virus are likely to be factors in applications that will come to the OBF.

It is hoped that at the rearranged Lambeth Conference in the summer of 2022 the OBF will host a reception where trustees can meet face to face both bishops we already support and explain what the OBF might offer to those bishops unaware of the Fund's work.

We will continue to address how we might support the desire, in many places across the Communion, to build up the capacity of the bishops through training, support, mentoring and retreat.

In 2021 the Anglican Communion inaugurated the new Province of *Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola* – the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola. This was formed by the Anglican dioceses in the two Lusophone countries that, until that date, had been part of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. In creating the new Province, the Communion also created 8 new dioceses. The OBF has already been approached to offer support to the new Province in 2022 and beyond.

More generally, the OBF will continue to have calls on its resources to support the on-going work of bishops in areas of the Communion challenged by poverty, war, disease and famine where the Church is often the sole means of support for many communities. The present global financial constraints will continue to make this contribution even more important.

The OBF has continued its explorations in establishing links with other organisations with kindred aims, such as the Anglican Communion Fund and St Augustine's Foundation, to ensure that available funding is targeted most effectively.

Financial review

The total net assets for which the OBF has responsibility at the end of 2021 were £18,111,161 (2020: £16,057,997). Of these assets:

- Unrestricted funds ("the General Fund"), which can be used for the setting up and maintenance of bishoprics generally, were £107,004 (2020: £43,706).
- Restricted funds, which must be used for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa), were £1,109,766 (2020: £862,620).
- the remaining £16,894,391 (2020: £15,151,671) were the permanent endowment funds of which £4,248,355 (2020: £3,718,484) generates income for general objects and £12,646,036 (2020: £11,433,187) generates income restricted to specific dioceses or regions.

The capital value of these funds, and the income generated by them, fluctuate according to market conditions.

Investment powers, policy and performance

Investments are held within Church of England Funds that are managed by CCLA Ltd. The Council reviews investment performance during the year, on the basis of reports received from CCLA Ltd. The funds are invested to maintain capital growth, whilst providing suitable levels of income to provide a reliable grant stream to the bishoprics. During the year the total value of the investment funds increased by £1,827,831, made up of gains on revaluation of £2,240,687 and disposals of £412,856 (2020: increased by £1,017,836, made up entirely of revaluation gains). The amount of investment income received was £456,759 (2020: £450,181).

Reserves policy

During 2020 the Council examined the requirements of the OBF in accordance with guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The Council believe that the level of free reserves from the unrestricted General Funds should be not less than £40,000, in order to provide sufficient working capital and to deal with unforeseen requests for emergency funding. As at 31 December 2021, as there are currently no designated funds, free reserves totalled £107,004. The trustees are considering further grants which will bring this balance back down to lower levels in future.

The value of endowment funds held at 31 December 2021 was £16,894,391.

Going concern

The Council has considered specifically the potential impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on its operations and has assessed expected cash flows for 2022 and beyond. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have not communicated a change to the expected investment income for 2022. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out on above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The Council is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the OBF and of its incoming resources and application of those resources for the period in question. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed (subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements); and
- prepare the financial statements on the "going concern" basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements are correctly prepared. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the OBF, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Council on 9 June 2022 and signed on its behalf:

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow

Chairman of Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept by the charity; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 10, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations were regulations concerning the international transfer of money.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Trustees about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission and reading minutes of meetings of those

charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor

London

Date 6th October 2022

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 AND 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £
Income from:					
Investments	3	109,347	347,412	-	456,759
Total income		109,347	347,412	-	456,759
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Support of bishops	4	(47,147)	(184,279)	(412,856)	(644,282)
Total expenditure		(47,147)	(184,279)	(412,856)	(644,282)
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		**62,200**	**163,133**	**(412,856)**	**(187,523)**
Gain on investments		1,098	84,013	2,155,576	2,240,687
Net income		**63,298**	**247,146**	**1,742,720**	**2,053,164**
Net movement in funds		**63,298**	**247,146**	**1,742,720**	**2,053,164**
Total funds at 1 January:		43,706	862,620	15,151,671	16,057,997
Total funds at 31 December		**107,004**	**1,109,766**	**16,894,391**	**18,111,161**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2020 Total £
Income from:					
Investments	3	107,291	342,890	-	450,181
Total income		107,291	342,890	-	450,181
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Support of bishops	4	(69,416)	(261,463)	-	(330,879)
Total expenditure		(69,416)	(261,463)	-	(330,879)
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		**37,875**	**81,427**	-	**119,302**
Gain on investments		615	38,539	978,682	1,017,836
Net income		**38,490**	**119,966**	**978,682**	**1,137,138**
Transfers between funds	5				
Net movement in funds		**38,490**	**119,966**	**978,682**	**1,137,138**
Total funds at 1 January:		5,216	742,654	14,172,989	**14,920,859**
Total funds at 31 December		**43,706**	**862,620**	**15,151,671**	**16,057,997**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	5	-				-
Investments	6	8,713	682,569	16,894,391	17,585,673	15,757,841
		8,713	**682,569**	**16,894,391**	**17,585,673**	**15,757,841**
Current assets						
Cash & cash equivalents		109,204	488,179	-	597,383	434,310
Debtors	7	27,757	87,141	-	114,898	113,445
		136,961	**575,320**	-	**712,281**	**547,755**
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(31,953)	(148,123)	-	(180,076)	(247,599)
Net current assets		**105,008**	**427,197**	-	**532,205**	**300,156**
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8	(6,717)	-	-	(6,717)	-
Total net assets		**107,004**	**1,109,766**	**16,894,391**	**18,111,161**	**16,057,997**
The funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds - General		107,004	-	-	107,004	43,706
Restricted funds		-	1,109,766	-	1,109,766	862,620
Endowment funds		-	-	16,894,391	16,894,391	15,151,671
Total funds		**107,004**	**1,109,766**	**16,894,391**	**18,111,161**	**16,057,997**

Approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 9 June 2022 and signed on its behalf:

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow
Chairman of Council

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		£	£
Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)		(187,523)	119,302
Investment income	3	(456,759)	(450,181)
(Decrease) in creditors	8	(60,804)	(99,220)
(Increase) in debtors	7	(1,453)	(6,548)
Net cash flow (used in) operating activities		**(706,539)**	**(436,647)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	3	456,759	450,181
Disposal of fixed asset investments		412,853	-
Net cash flow provided by investing activities		**869,612**	**450,181**
Net cash flow provided by financing activities		163,073	13,534
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		434,310	420,776
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**597,383**	**434,310**

Analysis of cash & cash equivalents & changes in net debt:

	At 1 Jan 2021	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	434,310	163,073	-	597,383
TOTAL	**434,310**	**163,073**	-	597,383

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal Status
The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ("OBF") is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Basis of Preparation
The charity's financial information has been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102");
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

The OBF meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity ("PBE") as set out in FRS 100, and therefore applies the PBE prefixed paragraphs in FRS 102.

The financial information has been prepared on the historical cost basis (except for the revaluation of investments) and on the accruals basis.

These financial statements comprise all the OBF's unrestricted, designated, restricted and endowment funds drawn up to 31 December each year.

A summary of the accounting policies, which have been applied consistently across the group, is set out below.

Going Concern
The Council has considered specifically the potential impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on its operations and has assessed expected cash flows for 2022 and beyond. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have not communicated a change to the expected investment income for 2022. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out on above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Funds Structure
Endowment funds are capital funds where the Council has no power to spend the capital but where the income generated from the invested funds is available for expenditure. Endowment funds fall into two categories: endowments for specific dioceses or provinces; and endowments for the general objects of the charity. Income from endowments for specific dioceses or provinces is treated as restricted income and income from endowment for the general objects of the charity is treated as unrestricted income.

Income and Expenditure
Dividends and other interest are recognised on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as a liability when a firm commitment to pay the grant is made.

Investment and Gains and Losses on Investment Assets
Investments are stated in the financial statements at market value. Gains or losses on investments are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. TAXATION

The Fund is a registered charity and as such is exempt from taxation on its income and gains to the extent that they are applied to its charitable purposes.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	109,198	347,411	-	**456,609**	**448,843**
Interest on cash and deposit funds	149	1	-	**150**	**1,338**
	109,347	**347,412**	-	**456,759**	**450,181**

4. SUPPORT OF BISHOPS

Support of bishops comprises grants awarded from unrestricted funds at the discretion of the Council and payments of net income from restricted funds. Support costs comprising of administration expenses of the Fund plus Governance Costs have been allocated to this activity cost category.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants committed	47,854	160,257	-	**201,111**	283,370
Grants written back	(7,000)	-	-	-	-
Transfer to JMECA	-	-	412,856	**412,856**	-
Support costs	6,293	24,022	-	**30,315**	47,509
	47,147	**184,279**	**412,856**	**644,282**	330,879

A transfer of the assets held in the Egypt fund was made in 2021 to the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA).

2020 expenditure was made up of £69,416 of unrestricted expenditure and £261,463 of restricted expenditure.

Governance costs, included within support costs, are made up of:-	2021	2020
	£	£
Auditors remuneration	7,150	7,200
Legal Fees	-	12,600
	7,150	**19,800**

5. PROPERTY

The Fund is the trustee of an historical house, Bishopscourt, in Cape Town, occupied by the Archbishop of Cape Town and a maintenance fund consisting of a portfolio of investments held in respect of the Archbishopric of Cape Town. The maintenance of the house is financed locally and has been for over a century. The Council last received a valuation as at 31st May 2013 of £4.3 million for the property and £942,000 for the investments. As the Fund has no control over or beneficial interest in the assets, they have been included at nil value in the accounts. The Council had originally hoped to transfer the title of these assets to a newly formed charitable trust in South Africa for the benefit of the Archbishopric of Cape Town, during the latter part of 2013. There has however been no change in 2021 and it is hoped that matters will be concluded as soon as possible.

6. INVESTMENTS

Fund	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment for general objects	Endowment for specific diocese	**Total investments 2021**	Total investments 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments						
Balance at 1 January	7,615	598,555	3,714,284	11,437,387	**15,757,841**	14,740,005
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(412,856)	**(412,856)**	-
Net surplus on revaluation	1,098	84,013	534,071	1,621,505	**2,240,687**	1,017,836
Balance as at 31 December	8,713	682,569	4,248,355	12,646,036	**17,585,673**	15,757,841

Fund	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment for general objects	Endowment for specific diocese	**Total investments 2020**
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments					
Balance at 1 January	-	567,016	3,478,569	10,694,420	14,740,005
Transfers between funds*	7,000	(7,000)	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus on revaluation	615	38,539	235,715	742,967	1,017,836
Balance as at 31 December	7,615	598,555	3,714,284	11,437,387	**15,757,841**

*A transfer of £7,000 investment fund units was made between the George restricted fund and the general fund. An opposite transfer of deposit fund units to the restricted fund was made in payment by the general fund. This was to provide sufficient liquidity to enable the restricted fund to make a cash payment.

See note 5 in respect of investments held in the Bishopscourt maintenance fund.

All investments are held within the CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

7. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Accrued income	114,898	113,445
	114,898	**113,445**

8. CREDITORS

	2021	2020
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Grants payable	168,064	240,399
Accrued expenditure	12,013	7,200
	180,077	**247,599**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amount falling due after one year:		
Grants payable	**6,717**	-
	6,717	-

Creditor balances consist of both dividend income due to the provinces, and general fund grants awarded by the Trustees.

9. EMPLOYEES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

There were no employees during the year. No remuneration has been paid to Council Members during the year. Reimbursement of travel & subsistence expenses paid to Council Members during the year was £nil (2020: £nil).

Secretarial fees of £9,735 charged by Barlow Interventions Limited were expensed during 2021 (2020: £12,170) for services provided by Stephen Lyon, OBF Secretary. Stephen Lyon, along with his related parties, is the sole owner of Barlow Interventions Limited. As at 31 December 2021, £4,863 was owed to Barlow Interventions Limited (2020: £5,435).

There was no other remuneration to key management personnel during either the current or previous years.

10. ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
General Fund	43,706	109,347	(47,147)	-	1,098	**107,004**
Restricted Funds:						
China	*601,944*	*67,417*	*(4,767)*	-	*55,603*	***720,197***
Other	*260,676*	*279,995*	*(179,512)*		*28,410*	***389,569***
Restricted Funds – total:	862,620	347,412	(184,279)	-	84,013	**1,109,766**
Endowment Funds	15,151,671	-	(412,856)	-	2,155,576	**16,894,391**
Total funds of the charity	16,057,997	456,759	(644,282)	-	2,240,687	**18,111,161**

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
General Fund	5,216	107,291	(69,416)	-	615	**43,706**
Restricted Funds:						
China	*513,322*	*65,456*	*(5,021)*	-	*28,187*	***601,944***
Other	*229,332*	*277,434*	*(256,442)*	-	*10,352*	***260,676***
Restricted Funds – total:	742,654	342,890	(261,463)	-	38,539	**862,620**
Endowment Funds	14,172,989	-	-	-	978,682	**15,151,671**
Total funds of the charity	14,920,859	450,181	(330,879)	-	1,017,386	**16,057,997**

Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2020 £
Fixed assets	7,615	598,555	15,151,671	**15,757,841**
Current assets	78,751	469,004	-	**547,755**
Current liabilities	(42,660)	(204,939)	-	**(247,599)**
Total net assets	43,706	862,620	15,151,671	**16,057,997**

Endowment Funds
Endowment investments are split based on whether there is a restriction in place on the income which these assets generate.

The OBF has a total of 38 (2020: 39) permanent endowment funds, the largest now being the recently amalgamated funds: OBF West Indies Fund at £2,621,000 (2020: £2,238,000), OBF China General Fund at £2,136,000 (2020: £1,826,000) and OBF India General Fund at £1,533,000 (2020: £1,308,000), valued at 31 December 2021.

Restricted Funds
These funds are for use for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa).

There are 34 (2020: 35) restricted income funds, the largest being the OBF China General Fund, valued at £720,000 at 31 December 2021 (£602,000 at 31 December 2020).

Unrestricted Funds: General Fund
This fund is for general use in meeting the OBF's charitable objectives and are not designated for specific purposes.

11. RELATED PARTIES

During 2021, secretarial fees of £9,735 were charged by Barlow Interventions (2020: £12,170). See Note 9 for further details.

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 245334

Accounts

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Registered Charity 245334

CONTENTS

	Page
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	2
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020	3
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND	10
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020	13
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020	14
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020	16

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Overseas Bishoprics Fund is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Office
Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AZ

President
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

Vice-Presidents
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of York,
The Most Revd the Lord Archbishops of Armagh, Dublin and Wales
The Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland

Members of the Council (trustees of the Fund) during 2020

Appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury
The Rt Revd Henry Scriven
The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo

The Director of the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council
The Revd Malcolm Brown (represented at meetings by Ms Janice Price, the Church of England World Mission Policy Adviser)

Representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church
Mr Sam Richardson (SPCK)
The Revd Duncan Dormor (USPG)
Mr Robert Dawes (The Mothers' Union)
Revd Paul Thaxter (CMS)

Trustees appointed by the Council
Dr Charles Mynors (Chairman of the Council resigned December 2020)
Mr Richard Woods
Mr Colin Bird
Miss Sue Parks
The Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow (Chairman of the Council from 1 January 2021)
Mr Stephen Slack (from November 2020)

Officers
Mr Stephen Lyon (Secretary)
Mr Christopher Smith (Clerk)

Auditors:	**Bankers:**	**Investment Managers:**
BDO LLP 2 City Place Beehive Ring Road Gatwick West Sussex RH6 0PA	Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN	CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London SW1E 5JL

THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees of the Overseas Bishoprics Fund ("OBF") present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 16, and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP") – 2nd edition.

Structure, governance, management and remuneration
The governing document of the OBF is *The Rules for the Administration of the Fund*. This defines its object, the methods by which that may be achieved, the procedures for the appointment of its Council and officers, and the means by which its business may be transacted. These Rules were thoroughly reviewed, revised and approved by the OBF Council in November in 2019 and subsequently sent to the Charity Commission.

The Rules provide that all affairs of the OBF are to be controlled by its Council, consisting of not more than twelve trustees. New trustees receive an induction pack of relevant documents outlining all aspects of the workings of the Fund.

The OBF has no other related parties apart from Barlow Interventions Limited, a company run by the OBF Secretary. Barlow Interventions Limited charges the OBF periodically for secretarial work and related expenses. The level of remuneration for the OBF Secretary is set by the OBF every three years and it was agreed that from 1st October 2018 a daily rate of £300 would be applied.

Appointment of Trustees
The composition of the OBF, in accordance with the updated 2019 rules of the Council, consists of not more than twelve members, who shall be the trustees of the Fund, as follows:

(a) the Director of the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council or, in the event of that office no longer subsisting, the holder of the equivalent office in succession to it, by virtue of his or her office;
(b) two bishops appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a maximum term of 12 years;
(c) representatives of bodies active in the support of the worldwide church (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), the Church Mission Society (CMS) and the Mothers' Union (MU)) for a maximum term of 12 years; and
(d) up to five other members, appointed by the Council, for a maximum term of 12 years.

Statement of public benefit
The OBF believes that the Christian faith is of benefit to society and individuals as it brings a vision of transformation for peace and social harmony. This is derived from the belief of the Church that the ultimate purpose of God is to bring all things into unity and perfection in Jesus Christ.

The quality and security of the leadership within the Church is crucial in ensuring that this vision is realised. The OBF believes that the advancement of the Christian religion will be enhanced by the provision of "support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion".

The bishops whom the OBF supports work in some of the neediest areas of the world. Their leadership benefits not only the Church but also the wider community and their nation and region. Their work often builds reconciliation, bringing community cohesion and stability through education, development and capacity building. They also provide vital links with the wider communities beyond those they primarily serve.

The OBF seeks to demonstrate this benefit through the way it addresses the needs of those in episcopal leadership within or closely associated with the Anglican Communion, as detailed in this report. When planning its activities for the year the Council has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Grant-making policy

The OBF makes grants out of its General Fund, to supplement the local funds of overseas bishoprics. In 2019 the Council reviewed its grant giving priorities and procedures producing a new set of Guidance Notes and a common Application Form. Support for initiatives that build Episcopal leadership capacity is now a high priority.

Grants are usually made for an individual year but in some cases multi-year commitments are made.
Every applicant for funding is strongly encouraged to provide:

- as much clarity as possible as to what other sources of support a bishopric is seeking or has received and the level of local support from within a bishopric;
- evidence of the support of the Primate or Provincial Secretary of the Province in which the applicant's bishopric is situated; and
- assurances that the Communion's own guidelines for the financing of new dioceses have been followed.

Income from each of the restricted funds is paid to the overseas diocese or province to which it relates. The income from each fund is therefore generally equal to the investment income less administration expenses for the year in question.

Objectives and activities

The Rules provide that the core object of the OBF is as follows:

(1) The object of the Fund shall be to provide support for the senior national and regional leadership of the worldwide Church, and in particular for the establishment and maintenance of bishoprics within the Anglican Communion.

And, provide further guidance that:

(2) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom where there exists a church that is part of the Anglican Communion or in communion within the See of Canterbury, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of such a church; and
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(3) In relation to any area of the world outside the United Kingdom, the Fund may:
  (a) provide financial assistance towards the setting up and maintenance of the bishoprics of any church whose relationship with the Church of England is such that the Council of the Fund, having sought the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, judges it suitable that such assistance be given; and
  (b) hold endowment funds for the benefit of such bishoprics.

(4) In relation to any church in any of the above categories or in relation to any part of such a church, where there is not in place for the time being a system of Episcopal leadership, any reference in the above provisions to a bishopric shall have effect as if it were to the office and work of a senior national or regional leader of status equivalent to that of a bishop.

The OBF is unique in the Anglican Communion in that, whilst it is keen to work alongside other organisations supporting the worldwide Church more generally, its specific remit is to provide assistance for the work of bishops throughout the Communion outside the UK. These bishops provide the leadership necessary to enable the delivery of the vision that the Christian faith can bring about transformation for peace and social harmony.

The OBF seeks to achieve this in two ways. Firstly, it administers episcopal endowment trust funds on behalf of several dioceses and provinces and transfers accumulated income to them. Secondly, it makes grants to bishoprics.

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The Council does not currently undertake fundraising activity of any nature, is not registered with a fundraising regulator, has no commercial participators, and has received no complaints relating to fundraising during the year.

Risk management

Risk area	Key mitigating strategies
Single fund manager for investments may lead to poorer investment returns, and capital value not maintained, impacting on ability to provide stable and sustainable distributions. Macro-economic events (eg Brexit, COVID-19) may impact investment performance and the sustainability of future distributions.	-Fund manager invests in diversified portfolio -Funds are held in deposit, investment fund and property fund shares -Performance of fund manager compared to other fund managers -Access to investment performance reports produced by Archbishops' Council Investment Committee -Regular meetings between the fund manager and the Council to discuss investment policies and performance
Inadequate documentation of Fund details may lead to delay in payments and requirements of funds are not fully complied with.	-New staff working on OBF matters are given an induction on purpose and work of the Fund -Files are held centrally for all key documents -Database is maintained of all Bishopric details
Grant allocations may not cover certain needy Bishoprics leading to OBF not seen as supporting the whole of the Communion	-Mission agencies are involved to obtain knowledge of local area -Trustees and Council members who have knowledge of the Bishoprics, and the areas in which they operate, are involved in grant allocation.
Funds may be overspent in the UK and misappropriated overseas	-Two signatories for every payment over £500 -Fund secretary holds latest records for administering the funds to ensure payments reach intended recipients -Admin charges deducted before income payments are made -Purposes of the Fund outlined to recipients each time an income payment is made -All grants agreed by the Council as appropriate -Payments must be made to a provincial or diocesan account (i.e. not a personal one) - Confirmation of receipt of funds are sent by the grantee to the secretary to the OBF together with a signed agreement that the grant or income will only be used for the specific purposes stated or in line with the objectives of the OBF. In addition, a summary is requested of the way in which previous grants have been spent
Poor succession planning and knowledge management leads to disruption in the work of the OBF.	-Put succession plan in place -Share knowledge of working of the Fund across finance department -Work collaboratively with other similar funding bodies

Activities of the OBF Council in the year to 31 December 2020

2020 has been a challenging year for many Anglican bishoprics globally due to the pandemic of the Coronavirus. For the OBF itself this has meant that we met virtually for our two trustees' meetings and, due to the postponement of the Lambeth Conference outlined below, did not have the anticipated opportunity to meet face-to-face in Canterbury with many of the bishops we support. We hope this will be possible in 2022. The longer-term effects of the virus are certain to influence life across the Anglican Communion for many years to come and will no doubt be contributing factors in some future grant applications.

Grants

In 2020 the OBF approved grants of £16,200 from its General Fund, all to be distributed in the year. It also distributed £41,000 from its India Funds to the United Churches of the 'Indian Sub-continent' with further grants from this Fund to be decided upon in 2021.

As in previous years an important proportion of these grants went to bishoprics in **sub-Saharan Africa**, an area of great material poverty but also rapid Church growth. The trustees have maintained the grants to the three Great Lakes bishoprics, previously identified as in particular need of support, in the provinces of DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda at £12,500. During the year, the trustees reviewed these grants and, while recognising the continuing financial needs of these provinces, also acknowledged that they had become enduring grants despite being awarded on an annual basis. It was decided that in future these three provinces be invited to make grant applications in the same way other bishoprics were open to do so and they would be considered alongside all the applications.

The India Funds support the on-going work of the bishoprics in **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka**. The importance of these grants can perhaps best be gauged by the fact that the OBF, from both these general funds and further restricted funds, is able to offer a significant proportion of the amount of the bishops' stipends in the Church of North India, recognising that historically this Church has attracted the most impoverished members of society, and to make considerable contributions to the other Churches that are beneficiaries of these Funds.

In 2020 the OBF was able to make the following new grants from its General Fund:

- **Yambio, South Sudan** –US$ 4,850 (approx. £3,950)
- **Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo** - £6,000.
- **Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda** - £3,500.
- **The Anglican Church of Burundi** - £3,000.

2020 Lambeth Conference

Due to the Coronavirus the 2020 Lambeth Conference was postponed until at least the summer of 2022. The Council agreed that grants either already given or promised to the Lambeth Conference Company towards the costs of the Conference would be honoured. These grants will enable bishops, unable to pay their own air fares or conference fees, the opportunity to participate in Lambeth 2022 as part of their development and to support their episcopal ministries.

The agreement to support certain costs of English dioceses in relation to the Pre-Lambeth Hospitality Initiative would also be honoured. These grants were distributed in early 2020 before the postponement was announced but with very specific conditions set as to how the money could be used i.e. for supporting particular episcopal costs in relation to the pre-Lambeth Hospitality Initiative.

Rationalisation of the OBF funds

Following the decision made in 2015 the OBF Council continued the process of reducing in number the existing 65 funds. Work in 2020 has continued with agreement now reached with the Charity Commission that the capital from the **OBF Egypt Fund** can be transferred to the Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association for them to administer for the same purposes as those of the OBF.

Work is continuing to seek permission from the Charity Commission to rationalise the different funds relating to China, the Indian Sub-Continent and those in the Province of the Church of North India in the following manner:

- **OBF China Fund** – to create a scheme where all the present China Funds can be incorporated into one fund and applied to all areas overseen by the China Christian Council;
- **OBF North India Fund** – to rationalise all funds linked to individual dioceses in the CNI into a new single Fund, in keeping with actual practice since the inception of the CNI.
- **OBF India Sub-Continent General Fund** – to rationalise all other India Funds into this one fund.

China Funds

In 2017 the OBF received a summary from the China Christian Council ("CCC") of how previous income payments from the OBF had been disbursed. All disbursements were seen to have been in keeping with the objects of the OBF. The Council therefore agreed in 2018 to recommence transferring to the CCC the income accrued in the previous year on these funds, as part of the general disbursement round in February each year. Direct communication with China to facilitate the transfer of these funds and to ensure reporting on their use was explored in 2019 but communication difficulties have slowed down the point at which the disbursement of these funds can re-commence. It was hoped that a face-to-face meeting between senior leaders in the CCC and OBF trustees might have taken place on the fringes of the Lambeth Conference last year. The postponement of the Conference denied us this opportunity, but it is hoped this might happen at the rescheduled Conference in 2022.

Bishopscourt, Cape Town, South Africa

During 2012 all the necessary arrangements were put in place to transfer ownership of Bishopscourt (the home and office of the Archbishop of Cape Town since the 1840s) to a similar trust in South Africa. At its meeting in November 2012 the Council of the OBF approved:

- a draft Deed of Trust establishing the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust, the principal objects of which are "to establish and maintain Anglican bishoprics within the province of Southern Africa, and in particular the Archbishopric of Cape Town"; and
- a draft Deed of Donation transferring to it the freehold of Bishopscourt and the associated funds.

This transfer is still yet to take place, mainly due to the complexity of the registration process of the Bishopscourt Episcopal Trust in South Africa. The OBF Council has passed a resolution that when the transfer of the freehold takes place the capital currently held in all other South African funds held presently by the OBF will also be transferred to the Trust: the Cape Town English Endowment Fund, the Cape Town South Africa Endowment Fund, the Bloemfontein Fund, the George Fund, the Natal Fund and the Pretoria Fund.

Governance Matters

Time was spent at the Council meetings in 2020 exploring several governance issues and improved policies were drawn up for financial controls within the OBF, safeguarding issues within bishoprics that receive OBF income or grants, diversity and inclusion policies and agreement for and reporting on grants that are awarded.

Future Plans

As the OBF specifically serves those leading the Anglican Communion – its bishops – its own future will be linked to that of the Communion. The Coronavirus not only caused the postponement of the Lambeth Conference but challenged the mission and administration of all the Churches in the Anglican Communion as they sought to respond to the situations they faced. The impact on the shape and viability of episcopal ministry within the Communion is likely to be a factor in future applications that will come to the OBF. We will pay particular attention to any new marginalisation which could result from a more permanent shift to equipping, resourcing and supporting episcopal ministry through virtual channels.

As a priority we will continue to address another emerging area of concern, that we are uniquely placed to support, the desire, in many places across the Communion, to build up the capacity of the bishops through training, support, mentoring and retreat.

During 2019 we had reviewed our priorities in our grant giving and the processes of applying for these grants. The new Information Booklet outlining these priorities and the new, more comprehensive Application Form have been helpful is enabling the trustees to be more strategic in their grant giving.

More generally, the OBF will continue to have calls on its resources to support the effective ministry of bishops in areas of the Communion challenged by poverty, war, disease and famine where the Church is often the sole means of support for many communities. The present global financial constraints will continue to make this contribution even more important.

The OBF will continue to explore and establish links with other organisations with kindred aims, such as the Anglican Communion Fund and St Augustine's Foundation, to ensure that available funding is targeted most effectively.

Financial review

The total net assets for which the OBF has responsibility at the end of 2020 were £16,057,997 (2019: £14,920,859). Of these assets:

- Unrestricted funds ("the General Fund"), which can be used for the setting up and maintenance of bishoprics generally, were £43,706 (2019: £5,216).
- Restricted funds, which must be used for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa), were £862,620 (2019: £742,654).
- the remaining £15,151,671 (2019: £14,172,989) were the permanent endowment funds of which £3,718,484 (2019: £3,478,569) generates income for general objects and £11,433,187 (2019: £10,694,420) generates income restricted to specific dioceses or regions.

The capital value of these funds, and the income generated by them, fluctuate according to market conditions.

Investment powers, policy and performance

Investments are held within Church of England Funds that are managed by CCLA Ltd. The Council reviews investment performance during the year, on the basis of reports received from CCLA Ltd. The funds are invested to maintain capital growth, whilst providing suitable levels of income to provide a reliable grant stream to the bishoprics. During the year the total value of the investment funds increased by £1,017,836, made up entirely of gains on revaluation (2019: increased by £2,484,782, made up of additions of £200,000, disposals of £11,453 and a total revaluation gain of £2,296,235). The amount of investment income received was £450,181 (2019: £435,707).

Reserves policy

During 2017 the Council examined the requirements of the OBF in accordance with guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The Council believe that the level of free reserves from the unrestricted General Funds should be not less than £40,000, in order to provide the sufficient working capital and to deal with unforeseen requests for emergency funding.

The Trustees have agreed to designate an amount of the retained reserves, as discussed elsewhere, in support of the upcoming Lambeth Conference, and will continue to consider appropriate use of the reserves as needs arise.

The value of endowment funds held at 31 December 2020 was £15,151,671.

Going concern

The Council has considered specifically the potential impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on its operations and has assessed expected cash flows for 2021 and beyond. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. CCLA, the Council's investment manager, have not communicated a change to the expected investment income for 2021. The Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover grant commitments already made and associated support costs. The Council will moderate the grant making activity of the Charity as necessary to meet its reserves policy as set out on above. Given this, the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and the financial statements continues to be adopted.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The Council is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the OBF and of its incoming resources and application of those resources for the period in question. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to:

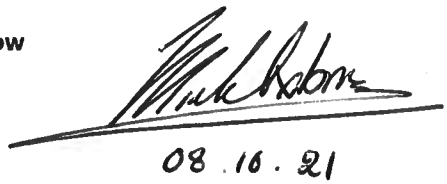
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed (subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements); and
- prepare the financial statements on the "going concern" basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements are correctly prepared. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the OBF, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Council on 9 June 2021 and signed on its behalf:

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow

Chairman of Council



08.10.21

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS BISHOPRICS' FUND

Opinion on the financial statements
In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

We have audited the financial statements of The Overseas Bishoprics Fund ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions related to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The other information comprises the Trustees' Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion;

- the information contained in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Annual Report; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Responsibilities of the Trustees' statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We made enquiries of management, and the Board, including:
  - how they have identified, evaluated and complied with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - their process for detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - which internal controls have been established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Charity. These include, but are not limited to, compliance with relevant Charities Acts in England and Wales.
- In addition, the Charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: regulations concerning the international transfer of money. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and

regulations to enquiry of Those Charged with Governance and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence if any.
- We considered management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including revenue recognition and the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results.

Audit response to risks identified

- The Senior Statutory Auditor has assessed and concluded that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- We made enquiries of the Board and management;
- We read minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; considered completeness of related party transactions; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at:
https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:
BDO LLP
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BDO LLP, statutory auditor
London, UK
Date: 13 October 2021

BDO LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 AND 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2020 Total £
Income from:					
Investments	3	107,291	342,890	-	450,181
Total income		107,291	342,890	-	450,181
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Support of bishops	4	(69,416)	(261,463)	-	(330,879)
Total expenditure		(69,416)	(261,463)	-	(330,879)
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		**37,875**	**81,427**	-	**119,302**
Gain on investments		615	38,539	978,682	1,017,836
Net income		**38,490**	**119,966**	**978,682**	**1,137,138**
Net movement in funds		**38,490**	**119,966**	**978,682**	**1,137,138**
Total funds at 1 January:		5,216	742,654	14,172,989	**14,920,859**
Total funds at 31 December		**43,706**	**862,620**	**15,151,671**	**16,057,997**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2019 Total £
Income from:					
Investments	3	106,902	328,805	-	435,707
Total income		106,902	328,805	-	435,707
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Support of bishops	4	(265,518)	(162,461)	(10,426)	(438,405)
Total expenditure		(265,518)	(162,461)	(10,426)	(438,405)
Total income less expenditure before gain on investments		**(158,616)**	**166,344**	**(10,426)**	**(2,698)**
Gain on investments		-	59,667	2,236,568	2,296,235
Net (expenditure)/income		**(158,616)**	**226,011**	**2,226,142**	**2,293,537**
Transfers between funds	5	(84)	84	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(158,700)**	**226,095**	**2,226,142**	**2,293,537**
Total funds at 1 January:		163,916	516,559	11,946,847	**12,627,322**
Total funds at 31 December		**5,216**	**742,654**	**14,172,989**	**14,920,859**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	5	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	6	7,615	598,555	15,151,671	15,757,841	14,740,005
		7,615	**598,555**	**15,151,671**	**15,757,841**	**14,740,005**
Current assets						
Cash & cash equivalents		52,011	382,299	-	434,310	420,776
Debtors	7	26,740	86,705	-	113,445	106,897
		78,751	**469,004**	-	**547,755**	**527,673**
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(42,660)	(204,939)	-	(247,599)	(332,819)
Net current assets		**36,091**	**264,065**	-	**300,156**	**194,854**
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8	-	-	-	-	(14,000)
Total net assets		**43,706**	**862,620**	**15,151,671**	**16,057,997**	**14,920,859**
The funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds - General		43,706	-	-	43,706	5,216
Restricted funds		-	862,620	-	862,620	742,654
Endowment funds		-	-	15,151,671	15,151,671	14,172,989
Total funds		**43,706**	**862,620**	**15,151,671**	**16,057,997**	14,920,859

Approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 9 June 2021 and signed on its behalf:

Revd. Canon Mark Oxbrow
Chairman of Council

08.10.21

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		£	£
Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)		119,302	(2,698)
Investment income	3	(450,181)	(435,707)
(Decrease) in creditors	8	(99,220)	(82,524)
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	7	(6,548)	42,383
Expenditure on endowment fund		-	11,452
Net cash flow (used in) operating activities		**(436,647)**	(467,094)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	3	450,181	435,707
Purchase of fixed asset investment	6	-	(200,000)
Disposal of fixed asset investment		-	11,452
Net cash flow provided by investing activities		**450,181**	247,159
Cash flows from financing activities			
Expenditure on endowment fund		-	(11,452)
Net cash flow provided by / (used in) financing activities		13,534	(11,452)
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		420,776	652,163
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**434,310**	420,776

Analysis of cash & cash equivalents & changes in net debt:

	At 1 Jan 2020	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	420,776	13,534	-	**434,310**
TOTAL	420,776	13,534	-	**434,310**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal Status
The Overseas Bishoprics' Fund ("OBF") is a charitable trust, founded in 1841 as 'The Colonial Bishoprics Fund', registered with the Charity Commission (no. 245334).

Basis of Preparation
The charity's financial information has been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102");
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP") 2nd Edition

The OBF meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity ("PBE") as set out in FRS 100, and therefore applies the PBE prefixed paragraphs in FRS 102.

The financial information has been prepared on the historical cost basis (except for the revaluation of investments) and on the accruals basis.

These financial statements comprise all the OBF's unrestricted, designated, restricted and endowment funds drawn up to 31 December each year.

A summary of the accounting policies, which have been applied consistently across the group, is set out below.

Going Concern
The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the OBF has adequate resources and cash flows to meet spending commitments for the foreseeable future. In reaching this conclusion, the Council has considered specifically the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its operations and has assessed expected cash flows for 2021 and beyond. Income received until the date of approval of the financial statements is in line with the trustees' projections. The Fund has sufficient cash and cash equivalents to provide liquidity to cover current grant commitments, and support costs to be incurred for at least 2021 and 2022. Future grant commitments will only be entered into if these do not jeopardise the liquidity position of the Fund. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and accounts.

With respect to the next reporting period, the most significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Charity are the level of investment return and the performance of investment markets.

Funds Structure
Endowment funds are capital funds where the Council has no power to spend the capital but where the income generated from the invested funds is available for expenditure. Endowment funds fall into two categories: endowments for specific dioceses or provinces; and endowments for the general objects of the charity. Income from endowments for specific dioceses or provinces is treated as restricted income and income from endowment for the general objects of the charity is treated as unrestricted income.

Income and Expenditure
Dividends and other interest are recognised on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as a liability when a firm commitment to pay the grant is made.

Investment and Gains and Losses on Investment Assets

Investments are stated in the financial statements at market value. Gains or losses on investments are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. TAXATION

The Fund is a registered charity and as such is exempt from taxation on its income and gains to the extent that they are applied to its charitable purposes.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	105,960	342,883	-	**448,843**	431,501
Interest on cash and deposit funds	1,331	7	-	**1,338**	4,206
	107,291	**342,890**	-	**450,181**	435,707

4. SUPPORT OF BISHOPS

Support of bishops comprises grants awarded from unrestricted funds at the discretion of the Council and payments of net income from restricted funds. Support costs comprising of administration expenses of the Fund plus Governance Costs have been allocated to this activity cost category.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants committed	56,984	226,386	-	**283,370**	434,800
Grants written back	-	-	-	-	(39,147)
Transfer to local province	-	-	-	-	11,453
Support costs	12,432	35,077	-	**47,509**	31,299
	69,416	**261,463**	-	**330,879**	438,405

Transfers to local provinces from the endowment fund have been carried out under section 268 of the Charities Act 2011, following legal advice.

2019 expenditure was made up of £265,518 of unrestricted expenditure and £172,887 of restricted expenditure.

Governance costs, included within support costs, are made up of:-	2020	2019
	£	£
Auditors remuneration	7,200	6,192
Legal Fees	12,600	-
	19,800	6,192

5. PROPERTY

The Fund is the trustee of an historical house, Bishopscourt, in Cape Town, occupied by the Archbishop of Cape Town and a maintenance fund consisting of a portfolio of investments held in respect of the Archbishopric of Cape Town. The maintenance of the house is financed locally and has been for over a century. The Council last received a valuation as at 31st May 2013 of £4.3 million for the property and £942,000 for the investments. As the Fund has no control over or beneficial interest in the assets, they have been included at nil value in the accounts. The Council had originally hoped to transfer the title of these assets to a newly formed charitable trust in South Africa for the benefit of the Archbishopric of Cape Town, during the latter part of 2013. There has however been no change in 2019 or 2020 and it is hoped that matters will be concluded as soon as possible.

6. INVESTMENTS

Fund	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment for general objects**	**Endowment for specific diocese**	**Total investments 2020**	Total investments 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments						
Balance at 1 January	-	567,016	3,478,569	10,694,420	**14,740,005**	12,255,223
Transfers between funds*	7,000	(7,000)	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	200,000
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(11,453)
Net surplus on revaluation	615	38,539	235,715	742,967	**1,017,836**	2,296,235
Balance as at 31 December	7,615	598,555	3,714,284	11,437,387	**15,757,841**	14,740,005

*A transfer of £7,000 investment fund units was made between the George restricted fund and the general fund. An opposite transfer of deposit fund units to the restricted fund was made in payment by the general fund. This was to provide sufficient liquidity to enable the restricted fund to make a cash payment.

	Restricted Funds	Endowment for general objects	Endowments for specific dioceses	Total Investments 2019	Total Investments 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments					
Balance at 1 January	308,376	2,807,998	9,138,849	12,255,223	12,421,378
Transfers between funds		126,366	(126,366)	-	-
Additions	200,000	-		200,000	19,511
Net surplus on revaluation	(1,027)	-	(10,426)	(11,453)	-
	59,667	544,205	1,692,363	2,296,235	(185,666)
Balance as at 31 December	567,016	3,478,569	10,694,420	14,740,005	12,255,223

See note 5 in respect of investments held in the Bishopscourt maintenance fund.

All investments are held within the CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

7. DEBTORS

	2020	2019
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Accrued income	113,445	106,897
	113,445	106,897

8. CREDITORS

	2020	2019
Amount falling due within one year:	**£**	£
Grants payable	240,399	315,572
Accrued expenditure	7,200	17,247
	247,599	332,819

	2020	2019
	£	£
Amount falling due after one year:		
Grants payable	-	14,000
	-	14,000

Creditor balances consist of both dividend income due to the provinces, and general fund grants awarded by the Trustees.

9. EMPLOYEES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

There were no employees during the year. No remuneration has been paid to Council Members during the year. Reimbursement of travel & subsistence expenses paid to Council Members during the year was £nil (2019: £333).

Secretarial fees of £12,170 were paid to Barlow Interventions Limited during 2020 (2019: £13,173) for services provided by Stephen Lyon, OBF Secretary. Stephen Lyon, along with his related parties, is the sole owner of Barlow Interventions Limited. As at 31 December 2020, £5,435 was owed to Barlow Interventions Limited (2019: £6,155).

There was no other remuneration to key management personnel during either the current or previous years.

10. ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
- General Fund	5,216	107,291	(69,416)	-	615	**43,706**
Restricted Funds	742,654	342,890	(261,463)	-	38,539	**862,620**
Endowment Funds	14,172,989	-	-	-	978,682	**15,151,671**
Total funds of the charity	14,920,859	450,181	(330,879)	-	1,017,386	**16,057,997**

Fund	Fund balance brought forward 2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
- General Fund	88,916	106,902	(165,518)	(25,084)	-	5,216
- Designated Fund	75,000	-	(100,000)	25,000	-	-
Restricted Funds	516,559	328,805	(162,461)	84	59,667	742,654
Endowment Funds	11,946,847	-	(10,426)	-	2,236,568	14,172,989
Total funds of the charity	12,627,322	435,707	(438,405)	-	2,296,235	14,920,859

Endowment Funds
Endowment investments are split based on whether there is a restriction in place on the income which these assets generate.

The OBF has a total of 39 (2019: 39) permanent endowment funds, the largest now being the recently amalgamated funds: OBF West Indies Fund at £2,238,000 (2018: £2,094,000), OBF China General Fund at £1,826,000 (2019: £1,713,000) and OBF India General Fund at £1,308,000 (2019: £1,227,000), valued at 31 December 2020.

Restricted Funds
This fund is for use for the support of bishoprics in specific named dioceses or regions (particularly in the Indian sub-continent, China, and South Africa).
There are 35 (2019: 35) restricted income funds, the largest being the OBF China General Fund, valued at £610,000 at 31 December 2020 (£513,000 at 31 December 2019).

Unrestricted Funds: General Fund
This fund is for general use in meeting the OBF's charitable objectives and are not designated for specific purposes.

Unrestricted Funds: Designated Fund
This fund comprises unrestricted funds which the OBF Council has designated to be set aside for 2020 Lambeth Conference.

11. RELATED PARTIES

During 2020, secretarial fees of £12,170 were paid to Barlow Interventions (2019: £13,173). See Note 9 for further details.